

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE
Methodist Protestant Church,

HELD AT
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA,

MAY 4, 1858.

BALTIMORE:
PRINTED BY SHERWOOD & CO.
N. W. CORNER BALTIMORE AND GAY STREETS.
1858.

Beginning on the Ohio River at the mouth of Green River in the State of Kentucky, and running with the said Ohio River to its confluence with the Mississippi. Thence with the Mississippi River to the Tennessee state line, where said line strikes said Mississippi River, south of the City of Memphis; thence with said Tennessee line to the Tennessee River; thence with said Tennessee to the mouth of Sandy River; thence in a north eastern direction to the Cumberland Rolling Mills on the Cumberland River; and from thence in a line to the beginning, so as to include Lafayette and Henderson in the State of Kentucky.

No. LIX. PROTEST OF BROS. CARSON AND VARDEN.

We, the undersigned, protest against the action of this General Conference in striking out a part of the rules on the Means of Grace, it being our solemn judgment that the Convention never designed conferring upon any future General Conference, any such power to alter the Elementary Principles, the Articles of Religion, the Means of Grace, or John and Charles Wesley's General Rules, as to make our Church any other than a *Methodist Church*, with Methodist Doctrines, and Methodist Usages.

D. C. CARSON,
JOSIAH VARDEN.

No. LX. TRANSCRIBING RECORDS OF GEN. CONFERENCES.

The undersigned begs leave to report, as a Committee *ad interim*, having been requested by the last General Conference to take charge of the Documents, and to record in a suitable book the Journals of the several General Conferences of the M. P. Church, and of the foregoing General Conventions of Methodist Reformers.

The undersigned regrets that he cannot report the work done. His incessant toils and duties in conducting a weekly paper, have rendered it impracticable for him to execute the undertaking in person. He, therefore, some two years ago, sought an arrangement with a very competent scribe to do the work. Adverse circumstances again and again defeated the arrangement, and the work is not done.

The undersigned respectfully tenders this acknowledgment and apology for his unintentional failure to fulfil the request of the last General Conference.

A. H. BASSETT.

No. LXI. [These resolutions were expressive of approbation of the Temperance cause,—copy not found among the MSS. sent to the printer.]

No. LXII. THE DEATH OF REV. ASA SHINN AND OTHERS.

Whereas, since the session of the last General Conference, Rev. Asa Shinn, late of the Pittsburg Conference, and others, long known as distinguished Methodist Reformers, and venerated as of the number of the founders of the Methodist Protestant Church, have been called from the toils and trials of earth, to the heavenly rest that remaineth to the people of God; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Conference, that in the death of those venerable men, the Methodist Protestant Church has realized an affliction and a loss irreparable save by the interposition of Divine Providence, in raising up unto us, in their stead, holy men, wise in counsel, and mighty in word and doctrine.

Resolved, That whilst we bow in submission to the will of God, the Church should cherish the memory of its departed standard bearers, who have during life proved themselves worthy of our esteem and confidence, and should aim to imitate their christian integrity, magnanimity, and endurance.

A. H. BASSETT,
GEO. BROWN,
D. B. DORSEY.

NOTE.—The above Reports present the result of the deliberations of the several Committees. For Amendments previous to final action, the reader will please consult the text of the Journal.

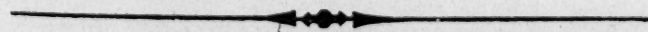
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

ON Tuesday, the 4th day of May, 1858, the Conference assembled at the M. P. church in Lynchburg, Va., when at about 10 o'clock, A. M., it was called to order, and on motion, br. B. S. Bibb, of Alabama, was chosen President, and br. W. H. Wills, of N. C., Secretary; both *pro tem*.

Br. Whitfield conducted the religious services.

Motion was made to appoint a committee to examine certificates of membership in this Conference, but was *withdrawn*, and then a *motion prevailed* that certificates and other evidences be presented directly to the Conference. Under this motion, the following were recognized members present:

ALABAMA	<i>Ministers</i> —F. L. B. Shaver, Samuel E. Norton.
	<i>Laymen</i> —B. S. Bibb, James H. Smith, <i>Alt</i> .
ARKANSAS	<i>Minister</i> —M. Stimson.
MISSOURI	<i>Minister</i> —Samuel Hughes.
	<i>Layman</i> —Gibson Hendricks.
TENNESSEE.....	<i>Minister</i> —B. T. Duggan.
	<i>Layman</i> —J. L. Armstrong.
WESTERN VIRGINIA....	<i>Ministers</i> —P. T. Laishley, D. B. Dorsey, Jr., <i>Alt</i> .
	<i>Layman</i> —Z. Kidwell.
GEORGIA.....	<i>Minister</i> —Charles A. McDaniel.
	<i>Layman</i> —John Webb.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	<i>Layman</i> —Hiram Yarborough.
NORTH CAROLINA.....	<i>Ministers</i> —William H. Wills, John F. Speight.
VIRGINIA.....	<i>Ministers</i> —R. B. Thomson, J. G. Whitfield.
	<i>Laymen</i> —H. B. Woodhouse, Charles W. Button.
MARYLAND	<i>Minister</i> —Daniel Zollickoffer.

Brs. Thomson, Whitfield and Armstrong were, on motion, appointed a committee to prepare Rules of Order for the Conference.

The Conference, on motion of br. Armstrong, appointed to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock, for the election of permanent officers.

On motion of br. Thomson, the Conference determined that on its adjournment it would meet at 9 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

A note was read from Rev. J. D. Mitchell, pastor of the 2d Pres-

the Secretary, who shall call the roll, after which, if the President be still absent, a President *pro tem.* shall be appointed.

RULE 2. The hours of meeting shall be 9 o'clock in the morning and three in the afternoon.

RULE 3. At the meeting of the Conference each day, the minutes of the preceding day shall, in the first place, be read, and errors, if any, corrected; after which, reports of committees shall have precedence of all other business.

RULE 4. All motions and addresses shall be made to the chair standing, and whilst a member is speaking, none shall pass between him and the President, or hold discourse with another. In putting a question, the President shall do it standing.

RULE 5. The President may call any member to the chair when he wishes to participate in debate, or for other purposes.

RULE 6. Every motion made and seconded, except motions to adjourn and verbal amendments, shall, if required by the Secretary, or any member, be handed to the chair in writing, signed by the mover and seconder, and be read aloud by the Secretary before any debate or question is had thereon.

RULE 7. If two or more members rise to speak at the same time, it shall be determined by the President which of them is entitled to the floor.

RULE 8. No interruption shall be suffered while a member is addressing the chair, but by a call of order by the President, or a member of the Conference; in such cases the member making the call shall state the grounds on which he makes it, and the member supposed to be out of order shall have an opportunity to explain, when all debate shall cease. All questions of order shall be decided by the President, agreeably to the rules adopted by the Conference for its government; provided, however, that any member may, by obtaining a second, appeal to the Conference from the decision of the chair; but the question shall be taken thereon without debate.

RULE 9. Any member making a motion may withdraw it, before the question is taken thereon, by leave of the Conference.

RULE 10. No member shall speak oftener than twice upon the same question without special leave from the Conference, except to explain; nor shall he speak a second time till every member who wishes the privilege shall have spoken once; and no person shall be permitted to speak longer than thirty minutes at the same time, without leave of the Conference.

RULE 11. All motions or resolutions shall, at the request of any member, be divided, when the sense will admit of it.

RULE 12. The appointment of all committees shall be by the President, except otherwise directed by the Conference.

RULE 13. The number of which any committee may be composed shall be determined by the Conference, the question being taken upon the highest number first, and so on until the Conference decides on the number.

RULE 14. No personal remark will be allowed against any individual, nor improper reflections against any religious community.

RULE 15. The President shall keep order within the house, and not permit any talking above a whisper by any of the members or other persons, during the session of the Conference, and shall confine the speaker strictly to the question under consideration.

RULE 16. Upon a call for the previous question, if made by three members, and sustained by a majority of the Conference, the question under consideration shall be put without further debate.

RULE 17. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lay on the table, to commit or to amend; which several

byterian church of Lynchburg, tendering that house of worship to the Conference for its use during its session, and asking that its pulpit be supplied by us.

Brs. W. W. Walker and A. Doniphan were appointed a committee for supplying the pulpit.

Br. Whitfield moved that *all* ex-members of the General Conference, and also all members of the General Convention, who may be present during the session of Conference, be invited to honorary seats. Motion prevailed.

Rev. J. D. Mitchell, of the Presbyterian, and Rev. A. Hall, of the M. E. Church, were introduced to the Conference, and on motion of br. ———, invited to seats within the bar.

On motion of br. Thomson, Conference adjourned with prayer by br. Duggan.

WEDNESDAY, May 5.

The Conference was called to order by the President in the chair at 9 o'clock, A. M.

The religious exercises were conducted by br. E. Y. Reese.

The minutes of yesterday were read, and on motion, the term *alternate*, where occurring, was ordered to be stricken out.

As thus amended, the minutes were on further motion adopted.

Certificates of election were presented, and the following additional members took their seats:

MARYLAND.....*Ministers*—W. C. Lipscomb, Josiah Varden.

Laymen—Jas. B. Mathews, Jno. B. Thomas, Geo. Vickers.

Br. Thomson, on behalf of the Committee, presented the series of Rules of Order as printed and in use by the last General Conference for the adoption of this Conference, excepting the 17th, which they declined to report.

On motion of br. Speight, the 10th Rule was amended by striking out "25" and inserting "thirty," thus extending the time allowed to each member for debate.

Br. Thomson moved an amendment of the 2d Rule, by striking out "two" and inserting "three," which motion prevailed, thus determining the Conference to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Br. Laishley moved a further amendment of the same rule, by inserting 12½ o'clock as the hour for the morning adjournment. Motion failed.

Br. Wills moved the restoration of the 17th Rule. The Conference refused to restore.

The question now recurring on the adoption of the Rules as amended, was sustained, and the rules adopted as follows:

RULES OF ORDER.

RULE 1. The Conference shall be opened by reading a portion of the word of God, singing and prayer, under the direction of the President; and in his absence, the opening of the Conference shall be under the direction of

Dr. Armstrong moved to amend by striking out 5 and inserting 3 in Dr. Thomson's resolution. The vote being taken on the original motion first, it was lost. The vote was then taken on the amendment, and it prevailed.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, Conference adjourned to give the chair time to appoint the committees ordered.

AFTERNOON SESSION, May 5.

The Conference met pursuant to adjournment, at 3 o'clock.

Opening religious services conducted by Dr. Laishley.

The President appointed the following brethren on the committees ordered by Conference :—

1. ON JOURNALS—Wm. H. Wills, P. T. Laishley, Daniel Zollickoffer, Wm. J. Holcombe, H. Yarborough, John B. Thomas, John Webb, John F. Speight.

2. ON BOUNDARIES—Samuel E. Norton, B. F. Duggan, Wm. H. Wills, Wm. J. Holcombe, Samuel Hughes, John Webb, H. B. Woodhouse, John B. Thomas, M. Langhorne.

3. JUDICIARY COMMITTEE—R. B. Thomson, B. S. Bibb, George Vickers.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—J. G. Whitfield, S. E. Norton, Z. Kidwell.

5. COLLEGE COMMITTEE—F. L. B. Shaver, H. B. Woodhouse, Dr. J. L. Armstrong.

6. LITERARY COMMITTEE—Jno. J. Murray, J. G. Whitfield, Chas. W. Button.

7. MEANS OF GRACE—P. T. Laishley, Charles A. McDaniel, Gibson Hendricks.

8. ON FINANCE—M. Langhorne, James H. Smith, James B. Mathews.

9. HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS—Josiah Varden, C. A. McDaniel, J. P. Speight.

10. ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—B. F. Duggan, M. Stimson, James H. Smith.

Certificates of election as Representatives to this General Conference were read as follows :

OHIO DISTRICT.....*Ministerial*—Joseph J. White.

NORTH CAROLINA.....*Layman*—J. P. Speight.

Br. J. G. Whitfield moved the appointment of a special Committee, to be called the "*Ratio Committee*," to consider the propriety of changing the ratio of representation to the General Conference. Carried.

Dr. P. T. Laishley introduced the following resolution, which was, on motion, referred to the Judiciary Committee :

Resolved, That the Discipline be so amended on page 39, item 10, as to read, after the word "laws,"—"Or by assignment of his property to another or to others."

motions shall have precedence in the order they stand arranged, and the motion for adjournment shall always be in order and decided without debate.

RULE 18. When the Conference shall resolve itself into a committee of the whole, the preceding rules shall also be observed.

RULE 19. Every member within the bar shall vote on all questions, except excused by the Conference for special reasons.

RULE 20. All reports of Committees, when read by the Chairman of the Committee, shall be regarded as the property of the Conference, and subject to their action.

RULE 21. A motion to reconsider shall be made by some member voting in the affirmative, and shall require a majority of the Conference present to sustain it.

RULE 22. Any member shall have a right to call for the reading of any motion, resolution, report on the statement of any business before the Conference, for his information, once, before he is required to vote.

10 o'clock having arrived, the Conference proceeded, agreeably to its previous order, to the election of its permanent officers; the first in order being that of President.

On motion, the chair appointed brs. Jno. F. Speight and S. E. Norton, tellers, who reported 26 votes cast, and br. W. C. Lipscomb having received a majority was declared duly elected.

The Conference proceeded to the election of a Secretary, when the tellers reported br. W. H. Wills as having a majority, who was declared duly elected.

On this announcement, in consequence of reasons before assigned—ill health—br. Wills declined serving.

The Conference then proceeded to vote again, when the tellers announced br. Joseph White as having a majority, who was declared elected.

On motion, the rules were suspended to admit members of Conference, who took their seats as follows:

VIRGINIA.....*Minister*—Wm. J. Holcombe.
Layman—M. Langhorne.

On its being stated that br. White was not present, br. Duggan moved a reconsideration of the vote for Secretary, but subsequently withdrew the motion.

On motion, a second Secretary was then balloted for, which resulted in the election of D. B. Dorsey, Jr.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, the following Committees were ordered, to be appointed by the chair:

1. Committee on Journals; 2. Committee on Boundaries; 3. Judiciary Committee; 4. Executive Committee; 5. College Committee; 6. Committee on Means of Grace; 7. Committee on Finance; 8. Committee on Orders; 9. Committee on Sabbath Schools; 10. Committee on Home and Foreign Missions.

On motion of br. Whitfield, a Literary Committee was also ordered.

Dr. Thomson moved that the Committees shall consist of 5 members each, except those on Journals and on Boundaries, which shall consist of 9.

Dr. R. B. Thomson, on behalf of the Judiciary Committee, presented the following report, which was, on motion, adopted:

The Committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred the proposition of br. P. T. Laishley, to amend the 10th section of the Discipline on page 39, by inserting after the word "law," the words—"Or makes an assignment or transfer of his property," beg leave to report, that they have examined the entire section, and believe that the proposed amendment would be an improvement. We therefore recommend the General Conference to adopt the amendment and order its insertion in the proper place.

R. B. THOMSON, }
B. F. BIBB, } Com.
GEO. VICKERS, }

Dr. Laishley introduced to Conference br. John Sexsmith, of Des Moines, Missouri, and moved that he be invited to an honorary seat in this General Conference.

Judge Bibb moved to amend, by granting br. Sexsmith the privilege of presenting to the Conference certain petitions from his Mission.

The motion of Dr. Laishley was laid on the table; when Judge Bibb offered a motion that honorary members be granted the privilege of debate, to which Dr. Laishley offered an amendment as follows: That all honorary members having business to present to the Conference be granted the privilege of debate.

Moved by br. Wills, that the last motion be laid on the table. Carried.

Br. Whitfield moved that the *Resolution* inviting Ex-members of General Conferences and members of the Convention of 1830 to honorary seats, be re-considered. A motion for an indefinite postponement, offered by br. Wills, prevailed.

The following *Resolution* was presented by br. Wills:

Resolved, That the privileges of honorary members of this General Conference be: 1. To speak on special subjects with which they may be charged. 2. On all other subjects as the Conference may grant leave.

Br. Whitfield offered the following substitute for the preceding Resolution:

Resolved, That the privileges extended to honorary members of this Session of our body, be to participate in our deliberations.

Br. Norton moved to lay br. Whitfield's motion on the table, which he amended by including, also, br. Wills' former Resolution.

Br. Button proposed the following resolution as a substitute for br. Wills' and br. Whitfield's, whereupon these brethren and br. Norton, by leave of Conference, withdrew their resolutions and motions to admit that offered by br. Button:

Resolved, As the sense of this Conference, that the privilege of honorary membership is that of participating in the debates of the Conference, that those who have been invited to this distinction at this Conference are awarded this privilege.

The following resolution was introduced by the same brother, which was referred to the Committee on Means of Grace:

Resolved, That the preamble preceding the invitation to the Lord's table, be stricken from the book of Discipline, as follows:—"The officiating minister or ministers may now partake, after which the following invitation shall be given."

The same brother offered the following resolution, which was referred to the Literary Committee:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to revise our Church Hymn Book, in view of compressing its contents, so as to admit the publication of the Hymn Book and Discipline in the same volume.

A communication from New Jersey District was received and read, accompanied by certificates of election as representatives of the following persons:

NEW JERSEY.....*Ministerial*—T. T. Heiss.
Layman—E. C. Pancoast.

So much of the communication as referred to the statistics of the New Jersey District, was referred to the Committee on Statistics.

Certain questions and recommendations accompanying, were moved to be referred to the Judiciary Committee, which motion was lost. Another motion, to reconsider the last one, was also lost.

Br. James P. Speight moved to lay on the table, which, by leave, he subsequently withdrew.

On motion of br. Norton the paper was finally referred to the Committee on Means of Grace.

The following resolution was presented by br. Whitfield, and after some discussion, was lost:

Resolved, In answer to question 1st, from the representative of the New-Jersey District, that this Conference has no authority to decide questions of doctrine.

Conference adjourned with benediction by the President.

THURSDAY MORNING, May 6.

Conference met at the usual hour. Religious services conducted by br. W. H. Wills.

Upon the reading of the minutes, br. Wills moved that in the minutes of Conference, where the names of members occur, the prefix shall be *Brother*. The motion was lost.

Certificates were presented and read, and the following brethren came forward and took their seats as representatives in this General Conference:

MARYLAND.....*Ministerial*—Dr. John J. Murray.
Layman—Martin Luther.
PITTSBURG.....*Ministerial*—William Collier, William Reeves.
MUSKINGUM..... " George Clancy.
WESTERN VA..... " Samuel Clawson.

The same brother offered the following :

Resolved, That the Discipline on page 57 be so amended as that in the "Regulations for the Government of the Electoral Colleges," the words "third day" be inserted in the second line, between the words "the" and "Session," so as to read "The Electoral College shall assemble during the third day of the Session," &c.

Br. Whitfield offered an amendment to the effect that "Monday" be substituted for "third day." Carried.

Dr. Duggan moved a further amendment by inserting "first" before "Monday," so the Resolution, as adopted, reads as follows: "The Electoral College shall assemble on the first Monday of the Session," &c.

Br. Wills presented the following :

Resolved, That the Discipline be so amended as that on page 42, Sec. 1, under the head of "Quarterly Conference," the words "one sixth," in the line next to the bottom, be erased and "one third" substituted.

On motion of Dr. Armstrong, the resolution was laid on the table, indefinitely.

The following was offered by br. Hughes, and, on his motion, was referred to Committee on Means of Grace :

Resolved, That so much of the Book of Discipline, page 101, as relates to the mode of Baptism, be stricken out.

Dr. Laishley, on his request, was released from the Committee on Journals, and br. Clancy was appointed in his place.

A communication from W. G. Snethen, Esq., in relation to his father's works, was read and referred to the Literary Committee.

A report from Dr. Dorsey, Chairman of the Committee of last General Conference, to prepare a Course of Ministerial Study, was read. Br. Whitfield moved to consider the report item by item. The motion was lost.

Dr. Armstrong moved to adopt, with the reservation that the candidates pursue the course recommended so far as possible.

Dr. Murray moved to lay on the table until to-morrow afternoon, when it shall be the order of the day. The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was offered by br. Webb, and after some debate was laid on the table :

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is the duty of our members to have their children baptized; and this Conference consider it a neglect of Christian duty to postpone having the ordinance administered more than 12 months from the time of the birth of said child : for remedy whereof, &c.

The following resolution was presented by br. D. B. Dorsey, Jr. :

Resolved, That this Conference regard "John and Charles Wesley's General Rules," inserted in our Book of Discipline, as scripturally correct; and, therefore, conformity to them is a test of membership in our Church, according to Art. II, Sec. 2, (last paragraph) of Constitution.

Br. Button withdrew his resolution, and br. Whitfield offered the following :

Resolved, That the brethren elected to honorary membership in this body, shall have the privilege of participating in our discussions.

Br. Wills moved an amendment by inserting the words "who have been" before the word "elected," which was lost. The vote was then taken on br. Whitfield's resolution, which prevailed.

The motion of Dr. Laishley, for the admission of br. Sexsmith as an honorary member of this Conference, was then presented and carried.

Dr. Murray moved a change in the 18th rule of order, inserting such words as to make the rule read "And the motion for adjournment or to lay on the table, shall always be in order and decided without debate." Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Laishley, a Committee on Memorials, consisting of five persons, was ordered.

A communication from E. C. Gilliam, lay representative of the Oregon and California Conference, was read and referred to the Committee on Missions.

Dr. Duggan presented a paper relating to the Huntsville District, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A paper relating to West Virginia District, was presented by Dr. Laishley and referred to Committee on Boundaries.

The same brother offered a *Resolution*, which, on his motion, was referred to the Literary Committee.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 3 o'clock.

Conference met. Religious services conducted by br. Clawson.

The President announced the following Committees :

ON MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS—John J. Murray, Wm. Collier, George Vickers, B. S. Bibb, Z. Kidwell.

ON STATISTICS—Wm. Reeves Samuel Clawson, James P. Speight.

ON RATIO OF REPRESENTATION—Elisha Lott, C. W. Button, Luther Martin.

A petition was presented from the Charleston Station, S. C., and referred to the Committee on Memorials.

The following Resolutions were presented by br. W. H. Wills, and passed unanimously :

Resolved, That the Pulpit Committee be requested to make arrangements for the administration of the Lord's Supper in this house at such time as they or the Conference may deem most appropriate, and that it be recognized as the General Conference Communion.

Resolved, further, That while the members of this Conference are especially requested, as far as practicable, to be present, the invitation will be extended to all who may be disposed to participate.

2. The Committee beg leave to report on the heading preceding the invitation to the Lord's table, which reads thus: "The officiating minister or ministers may now partake, after which the following invitation shall be given," that it be stricken out, as it is entirely at variance with the custom of the churches throughout the entire western country and throughout a considerable portion of our southern membership, and as the striking out will not affect the usage of those brethren who now practice the receiving of the elements before administering to the laity, we therefore recommend the whole heading to be omitted in the forthcoming edition of the discipline.

P. T. LAISHLEY,
GIBSON HENDRICKS,
CHAS. A. McDANIEL.

3. The Committee to whom was referred the subject relating to the striking out all that relates to the mode of baptism as found in the book of discipline, beg leave to report adversely to the striking out; all of which is respectfully submitted.

P. T. LAISHLEY,
GIBSON HENDRICKS,
CHAS. A. McDANIEL.

Dr. John J. Murray, Committee on Memorials, &c., reported as follows:

The Committee on Memorials, having had under consideration the communication from the church in Charleston, S. C., beg leave to report that, in their judgment, the request of said church should be granted, and therefore submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the church in Charleston, S. C., sustain the relation of a Home Mission to the Maryland Annual Conference, and henceforth be recognized on the minutes of said Conference as Charleston Mission.

JOHN J. MURRAY,
B. S. BIBB,
W. COLLIER.

Br. Vickers, of same Committee, offered a Minority Report:

The undersigned respectfully reports that it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners, and that the petition be laid on the table; he considers that the Constitution, in article 10, section 7, page 26, prohibits the change of a station or circuit to a mission for the purpose of continuing a minister for a period longer than that portion of the Constitution authorizes.

GEORGE VICKERS.

The Report of Judiciary Committee was taken up. Br. Dorsey moved an amendment of the report by inserting the words, "to be inserted in the Book of Discipline as a preface to the 'General Rules.'" The report was then adopted.

The report of Committee on Means of Grace, relating to certain interrogatories from New Jersey Conference, was taken up.

Br. Whitfield offered an amendment to the report, whereupon br. Vickers moved that the report and the amendment be recommitted, and that the committee be instructed to report upon the merits of the application.

On motion of Dr. Laishley, brs. Wills and Whitfield were added to the committee.

Dr. Murray moved to refer the resolution to the Judiciary Committee. The motion prevailed.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by Dr. Duggan.

FRIDAY MORNING, May 7, 9 o'clock.

Conference convened and opened with the customary religious services by br. John F. Speight.

After the reading and correcting of the minutes, the President announced that br. Langhorne desired to be relieved from serving on the Committee on Finance. The Conference excused br. Langhorne, and the President named the following brethren on that committee:

Committee on Finance—James B. Mathews, James H. Smith, Luther Martin.

Dr. Thomson, Chairman of Committee of the Judiciary, reported as follows:

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of br. Dorsey, Jr., "That this Conference regard 'John and Charles Wesley's General Rules,' inserted in our book of discipline, scripturally correct; and, therefore, conformity to them is a test of membership in our churches, according to Art. II, Sec. 1, of Constitution," report that, after due investigation of the subject, they recommend the adoption of the following statement, to be inserted in the book of discipline as a preface to the "General Rules:"

The General Rules of John and Charles Wesley were placed within our book of discipline as a memorial of the fathers of ancient Methodism, and as containing most important and wholesome counsel to church members; but not as a test of membership in the Methodist Protestant Church.

With this explanation of the subject we recommend those General Rules to be continued in the book of discipline.

R. B. THOMSON,
B. S. BIBB,
GEORGE VICKERS.

Dr. Laishley, Chairman of Committee on Means of Grace, offered the following reports:

1. The Committee having under consideration the revision of our church hymn book would respectfully suggest to the Conference the propriety and necessity of reducing the size of the hymn book, and so revise the book as to make it a more acceptable selection for the use of the church; but as it respects the binding up of the discipline in said book, for reasons satisfactory to the Committee we report adversely to it, from the fact that it would still make the book too large for a pocket hymn book—the book too would be out of date every four years, from the change or changes that may be made in the discipline; it would also increase the price of the book, so as to render it unsalable. Your Committee are of the opinion that the interest of the church will be increased by publishing the books separately. We therefore recommend the appointment of the Committee as contemplated in the resolution; all of which is most respectfully submitted.

P. T. LAISHLEY,
GIBSON HENDRICKS,
CHAS. A. McDANIEL.

continuance of this union—that it involves us, in our respective districts, in serious embarrassments, some of which we will briefly state below.

We devoutly respect the injunction contained in one of the elementary principles of our Constitution, that it is the duty of all Ministers and Members of the Church to maintain godliness, and oppose all moral evil. Now, it is our clear conviction, long since and repeatedly expressed by all our Annual Conferences, that the traffic in slaves, and the voluntary holding of slaves, does conflict with the rights of humanity, and with the morality of the Holy Scriptures. Hence, we regard it the bounden duty, as well as constitutional right of all ministers and members of the Meth. Prot. Church, to oppose the practices alluded to. But it has ever been a source of grief and mortification to us, that in the entire Southern section of the Meth. Prot. Church, slave-holding and slave-trading are continually practiced without rebuke. We have, for a series of years, again and again, in our respective Annual Conferences, expressed to our Southern brethren our kind remonstrance against the continuance of these practices, entreating them to put away for ever this sin, and relieve us of a humiliating reproach. But our expostulations have ever been deemed not only unacceptable, but highly offensive to our slave-holding brethren. All prospect and hope of their regarding our appeals have well nigh fled—they seem more and more fixed in their purpose to sustain and perpetuate in the Church what we are constrained to deem a moral wrong. Hence, we are in difficulty. Hence, our cause has been impeded in many sections of our work. On account of this we have sustained extensive losses, in our ministry and our membership. On account of this the minds and consciences of thousands of our people are ill at ease, and they cannot be satisfied to continue our ecclesiastical union with the slave-holding section of the Meth. Prot. Church, unless the offence complained of be removed. We are threatened with extensive disruption and falling off from our ranks, unless we are relieved and freed from what many deem a criminal complicity with a declared moral evil of the highest grade.

We would not make ourselves further offensive to our Southern brethren, by reiterating appeals which have been heretofore deemed ungrateful, if not insulting to their feelings; much less would we be unreasonable, to make demands of the General Conference which it is out of the power of that body to grant. But we will here state a few modifications of the Constitution and Discipline, which we deem indispensable to our success as a Church, in the Districts which we represent:

First.—The word “white” should be stricken from the Constitution, Art. XII, Sections 1 and 2, as establishing an invidious distinction, not in accordance with the principles of the Gospel of Him who made of one blood all the nations of men, to dwell on all the face of the earth.

Second.—The third item and annexed proviso, embraced in the 4th section of Art. VII, should be stricken from the Constitution, because it is understood and used to protect ministers and members of the Church in the practice of slave-holding and slave-trading.

Third.—A clause should be inserted, specifically setting forth that the practices of voluntary slave-holding and of slave-trading, will be henceforth a barrier to Membership in the Meth. Prot. Church.

This Convention is aware that the General Conference has not Constitutional authority to modify the Constitution, but upon recommendation of two-thirds of the Annual Conferences. But General Conferences have heretofore deemed it within their prerogatives to adopt recommendations for the subsequent action of the Annual Conferences. If, therefore, it shall be the pleasure of the General Conference of 1858, during its session, to recommend to the Annual Conferences to adopt such action as above, for the purpose

The report of the same Committee relative to the revisal of Hymn Book, &c., was taken up. After some discussion the following resolution, offered by Dr. Murray, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Report be recommitted, with instructions to the Committee to report a plan for the revisal of the Hymn Book.

The report of same Committee, relating to a change in our Communion formula, was considered. After protracted debate, br. Button offered the following as a substitute in the formula for the words which the report recommended to strike out:—

“The officiating minister or ministers shall now proceed with the service; and the following invitation shall be extended to communicants.”

Dr. Murray moved the following substitute:

Whereas, in the opinion of this General Conference, the direction of the officiating minister on page 96 of Discipline, lines 6, 7 and 8, does not *require* ministers to commune before offering the elements to the people, therefore—

Resolved, That the legislation contemplated in the report submitted by the Committee on Means of Grace, is unnecessary.

On motion of Gen. Woodhouse, the whole matter was laid on the table.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Webb.

AFTERNOON SESSION, May 7.

Conference met at the regular hour. Services by br. Reeves.

On motion of Dr. Laishley, all the papers, &c., relating to revision of Church Hymn Book, were ordered to be handed over from the Committee on Means of Grace, to the Literary Committee.

Br. Wills read a paper from North Carolina Conference, relative to the Hymn Book, which on motion was referred to the Literary Committee.

A communication was read from Joseph Wells, lay representative of Muskingum Conference, which, on motion, was laid on the table.

On motion of br. White, the order of the day was postponed, to read a communication from brs. Joseph Rockhold, and D. C. Carson, of Ohio Conference, which was also laid on the table.

Br. Wm. Collier presented a memorial from a convention held in Cincinnati in 1857:

The Convention of Representatives of Northern and Western Conferences, assembled in Cincinnati, in the fear of Almighty God, set forth respectfully to the General Conference of the M. P. Church, the following Declaration and Memorial:

It would be our preference and our earnest desire, to perpetuate our union with the General Association, in which we have heretofore felt a common interest, and the thought of a severance thereof is truly painful to us. But we must in Christian frankness state that there are grave impediments to a

beginning, up to 1855, was as promising as could have been expected. But at that time our southern Professors, for reasons no doubt satisfactory to themselves, but by no means so to the Board, all resigned, having started a rival College at Lynchburg, Va. This action of theirs turned nearly all the South against Madison College. Most of our students from that quarter were withdrawn, and our funds due on scholarship notes were, until recently, generally withheld. Meantime we secured other Professors, and the College was carried on by them at reduced salaries, to suit our embarrassed condition. The present year the salaries were further reduced by force of circumstances.

["Being advised by several of the western Conferences in 1856, the Board, through its Treasurer, indicated an intention to collect our claims in the south by legal process. But upon further consideration this plan of collecting was, for the present, abandoned, and the President of the College was sent to the south to collect on terms less offensive. He had, at the several times of his going, some good degree of success in his efforts, and the way was opened for further collections; so that hope was entertained that we should be able to sustain the College and hand it over with credit to the General Conference of 1858, in view of that body giving it a more favorable and promising position. But the agitation of the question of slavery, so injurious to the country and to the church, began to affect this College at the time of the resignation of our southern Professors, and has increased in its effects ever since. It is true all the Conferences of the M. P. Church north and west have, so far as we know, approved of the fidelity of the Board of Trustees in holding the College in a conservative position as a general church institution, yet after all but little has been done by them for the College, as our conservative position, it must seem, did not suit them.

"The slavery agitations have drawn on this College from the free states, whence we hoped for aid, a suspicious eye. The agents we appointed in the free states could do but little for the College in the way of selling scholarships, securing students or collecting funds, and generally in a little while gave up their agencies. Amid the whole of these discouragements we have, against wind and tide, held on our way; but now, since the action of the Cincinnati Convention, looking to a division of the church and partly accomplishing that division by withholding the delegates of the Conferences of the free states from attending the General Conference in Lynchburg, Va., next May, *all hope of sustaining the College is gone*. If the north and west will not meet the south in General Conference, the south will not pay what is due Madison College. Our other resources being insufficient to enable us to sustain this institution any longer, the conclusion of the whole matter is, that a conservative college cannot live in the midst of the present agitations prevailing in the church, and that this institution, deserted by both north and south, must perish in the disastrous and unhappy conflict; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That unless the church, united or divided, come speedily to the rescue, the Faculty must be dismissed and the College exercises suspended, and the College itself sold to pay its debts, and the whole of the money expended and the endowment secured, amounting to many thousands of dollars, be lost to the church and College for ever.

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of the church and all interested in the welfare and prosperity of the College are especially due to the Rev. George Brown, D. D., President of the Faculty, for his indefatigable and arduous labors night and day, and with very moderate compensation, to sustain and uphold the institution under its many and heavy embarrassments."

of removing the objections and difficulties from which we so seriously suffer, and without the removal of which we deem it impossible for us to enjoy success, then in such case we will consent to await the action of the Annual Conferences thereupon. But if this General Conference should not see good to adopt the action necessary to remove our difficulties, we cannot conscientiously consent to any further ecclesiastical connection.

We wish to inflict no unkind reproaches upon our Southren brethren. Nor would we assume to be the judge of our neighbor. But we have calmly presented, in a brief manner, the embarrassments of our position as connected with the slave-holding portion of the Church, and the action which would be necessary to obviate our difficulties.

Praying that the Great Head of the Church may enlighten and influence your minds, and dispose your deliberations to the advancement of his glory.

We remain yours, respectfully.

By order of the Committee.

W. COLLIER, Pres.

J. J. WHITE, Sec'y,

Dr. Armstrong moved its reference to the Committee on Memorials. The motion prevailed.

Dr. Kidwell moved that the papers from Joseph Wells, and from brs. Rockhold and Carson, be taken from the table and referred to the same Committee. Carried.

Conference adjourned to meet in the 2d Presbyterian Church, on account of funeral services in our own.

Prayer by br. Zollickoffer.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 8th.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Opening religious services conducted by br. Norton.

After the reading of the minutes, br. Collier presented a report from Madison College:

To the General Conference of the M. P. Church:

GENTLEMEN,—It becomes our duty once more to report to your venerable body the condition of Madison College. Circumstances over which this Board had in no sense any control, have made the suspension of the College absolutely unavoidable. To present this matter in its proper light to your body, it will be necessary to make the action of the Board on the 12th of January last a part of our report.

“The Board of Trustees of Madison College was convened at the call of the President. Hon. A. Stewart in the chair, and John L. Means appointed Secretary *pro tem*. The object of the meeting having been stated by the President, on motion, John L. Means, A. Patterson and R. G. Hopwood, Esqs., were appointed a Committee to report to the Board the condition of the College.” In a short time the committee reported as follows, to wit:

“By an arrangement entered into by the General Conference of the M. P. Church in 1850, Madison College, in Uniontown, Pa., was adopted as an institution of learning for the whole church, and of course was to be held by the Board of Trustees and managed by them upon conservative principles for the benefit of the whole. The progress of the College from the

On motion of Dr. Murray, the business before Conference was laid on the table, temporarily, to permit br. Walker to read the Sabbath appointments, after which, on motion of br. Collier, the report from Madison College was referred to the College Committee.

The same brother presented a report from the Board of Missions, which was read and referred to the Committee on Missions. (See Appendix No. 1.)

Br. Sexsmith, of Desmoines Mission, presented a memorial from said mission, which was referred to same committee.

Dr. Murray, Chairman of the Literary Committee, made the following report, which was adopted :

The Literary Committee, having had under consideration the communication of Hon. Worthington G. Snethen, beg leave to submit the following resolution :

Resolved, That this Conference have heard with sincere gratification that Hon. Worthington G. Snethen, son of the late Rev. Nicholas Snethen, is engaged in preparing a biography and edition of the works of his late father, in 8 vols. octavo ; and believing that the works of a minister so justly revered in the church for his eminent piety and ability, edited by one who has unequalled facilities for the proper execution of his task, cannot fail to be a valuable addition to the literature of the church, we commend it to the patronage of our people.

The Committee having also had under consideration the resolution offered by Dr. P. T. Laishley in reference to the publication of an annual register of the Methodist Protestant Church, return the same to the Conference, with a recommendation that it be adopted with the annexed proviso.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. MURRAY,
J. G. WHITFIELD,
CHAS. W. BUTTON.

Resolved, That it be made the duty of the Annual Conference Secretaries to prepare and forward to the book agent at Baltimore an exact statement of the number of stations, circuits and missions on their several districts, with the number of members, local ministers and preachers, churches and parsonages, with their value, Sabbath schools, scholars, and volumes in the libraries, together with other statistics in connection with their respective fields of labor, interesting to their members and the church generally ; and that the book agent collect these several reports into a convenient pamphlet or almanac, to be entitled the "Methodist Protestant Annual Register," and kept for sale at the book rooms, provided the financial condition of the Book Concern will justify the expenditure, subject to the judgment of the book agent.

P. T. LAISHLEY.

The following resolution, offered by Dr. Kidwell, was, on motion, referred to the Literary Committee :

Resolved, That the Literary Committee be respectfully requested to inquire into and report upon the expediency of having prepared, at as early a day as practicable, a more complete history of the M. P. Church, than is now extant.

F. H. Pierpoint, Esq., presented certain resolutions relating to preparing a catechism and regulating Sabbath Schools, which were, on motion, referred to the Committee on Means of Grace.

After the above document was read, Dr. Brown, being called upon, gave a feeling history of the difficulties with which the College had to struggle and its present embarrassed condition, growing out of a want of unity on the part of the church. Members of the Board freely interchanged their views on the occasion, and it was finally

Resolved, That the operations of Madison College be *suspended* until after the meeting of the General Conference of the M. P. Church, which sits in Lynchburg, Va., May, 1858.

From past experience it is not practicable to make this College live and prosper on its old conservative platform. We think it equally evident that the South will not want it, being out of her limits and she having one of her own. Whether the north and west will take it, if given over by General Conference action to them, can best be told by the delegates at General Conference from the free state Conferences; or, at furthest, the Conference in those regions can tell when they meet next fall. If mild councils should prevail in your body, and any thing can be done to save this College to the church, we shall be glad. If nothing is done, the College and all belonging to it will probably be brought to sale to pay its remaining debts; having done our best and meant it well, we now submit the interests of this College to you, and hoping that your action in the premises will be dictated by "the wisdom from above." As a great portion of the notes are in the hands of agents, we cannot make an accurate financial report, and therefore make none. Our number of students, at no time since our southern Professors left us, went up to sixty. But we have sent out some valuable graduates. Madison College, therefore, has not lived in vain.

Signed by order and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Madison College.
A. STEWART, Pres't.

Dr. Laishley, Chairman of the Committee on Means of Grace, made the following Report:

Your Committee, to whom was referred the questions of br. T. Taylor Heiss, representative elect from New Jersey district to this body, having had said paper under further consideration, beg leave to report upon question 1st—That the General Conference has authority only to express an opinion, but deem it inexpedient to exercise that authority in the present case.

Again—that in answer to question 2d: It is the opinion of your Committee that a member holding a certificate of removal is not amenable any where while he holds the certificate.

Again—on question 3d: That it is a constitutional question. Consequently we have no authority over it.

P. T. LAISHLEY,
J. G. WHITFIELD,
GIBSON HENDRICKS,
WM. H. WILLS,
CHAS. A. McDANIEL.

Br. White moved the adoption of the report.

Dr. Murray called for a division of the question, when the first item was taken up for adoption.

Judge Bibb moved the following amendment:—"That all the first item be stricken out after the word "that" and these words be inserted: 'It is the opinion of the General Conference that Baptism by water is a pre-requisite to membership in our Church.'"

and, after discussion and amendment, was on motion of Dr. Murray recommitted, with instruction to report a rule.

The following instructions, moved by br. Wills, were voted down:

“Resolved, That the Judiciary Committee be required to report on the propriety of amending the Discipline, page 36, Sec. 4, so as to provide also for the admission of members holding certificates from superintendents of any circuit or station in our own Church, and if appropriate to report the amendment.”

The third item of report on Means of Grace was taken up and adopted.

Dr. Laishley moved that the report of the Committee on Means of Grace be taken up. The motion was lost.

The reports of Committee on Memorials relating to the Charleston Church were called up. Dr. Armstrong moved the adoption of the majority report.

Pending the discussion had on the subject, Conference adjourned with benediction by the President.

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, May 10th, 3 o'clock.

Opening religious services conducted by br. Dorsey.

Upon calling the roll, G. R. Barr came forward and took his seat as ministerial representative of the Virginia District; when Dr. W. J. Holcombe, alternate delegate, retired. Also, Wm. H. Harding, lay representative from the same District, took the place of M. Langhorne, alternate.

The case of the Charleston Church, before the Conference at the time of adjournment, was now taken up. After protracted discussion, a motion was made to lay the report on the table, with a view to introduce a resolution on the subject, but the motion was lost.

On the call of brs. Varden, Vickers and Webb, a division vote was taken, as follows:

Yeas, Ministerial—F. L. B. Shaver, J. J. Murray, Wm. Collier.

Yeas, Laymen—B. S. Bibb, G. Hendricks, Jas. L. Armstrong, Hiram Yarborough.

Nays, Ministerial—S. E. Norton, M. Stimson, S. Hughes, B. F. Duggan, P. T. Laishley, D. B. Dorsey, Jr., C. A. McDaniel, W. H. Wills, J. F. Speight, R. B. Thompson, J. G. Whitfield, Daniel Zollickoffer, W. C. Lipscomb, Josiah Varden, G. R. Barr, E. Lott—16.

Yeas, Laymen—Z. Kidwell, J. Webb, H. B. Woodhouse, C. W. Button, J. B. Mathews, J. B. Thomas, G. Vickers, J. P. Speight, L. Martin, F. H. Pierpoint, W. Harding—11.

A resolution relating to the restrictive rule was offered by br. McDaniel, under instructions of Georgia District, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Dr. Z. Kidwell, Chairman of the Executive Committee, returned

The same brother presented a document relating to financial matters, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The report of Committee on Means of Grace, with its proposed amendments, was on motion taken from the table. Judge Bibb's amendment was before the Conference. After some discussion, the whole matter was, on motion, laid on the table, when the following resolution, presented by br. Whitfield, was on motion of Dr. Murray adopted:

Resolved, That the directions and regulations of our Constitution and Discipline are sufficiently explicit on the subject of Baptism.

The second item of the report was taken up. After considerable discussion was had, Dr. Murray moved a reference of this item of report to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report a rule applicable to the subject.

A resolution was offered by br. Hughes relating to ministerial orders, which was laid on the table.

Conference adjourned until 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by br. Wills.

MONDAY MORNING, May 10th, 9 o'clock.

Conference met, and the usual religious services were conducted by Rev. Wm. H. Collins.

After the reading of the minutes, Dr. Thomson, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, presented a report on the question of br. Heiss, of N. J. District, relative to the position of a member of our church holding a certificate of membership; referred to that committee for some action. The report was, on motion, laid on the table for the present.

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the answer of the Committee on Means of Grace to the second question in the series submitted by br. Heiss, of New Jersey, viz: "That it is the opinion of your Committee that a member holding a certificate of removal is not amenable any where while he holds the certificate," report that they concur in said opinion.

R. B. THOMSON,
B. S. BIBB.

A communication from Ruel Hanks, ministerial representative of the New York and Vermont Conferences, was read, and on motion referred to the Committee on Petitions and Memorials.

A communication from br. S. Morrison, alternate representative of the Indiana District, was read and referred to the Committee on Petitions and Memorials.

Br. Norton, Chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, submitted a report.

A motion made by Judge Bibb for recommitment of the report was carried.

The report of the Judiciary Committee was taken from the table,

Resolved, That this Conference so interprets the first section of article seventh of the Constitution as to recognize the authority for Missions, as well as Circuits and Stations, to be represented by lay delegation in the Annual Conferences to which said Missions severally belong.

P. T. LAISHLEY,
W. REEVES.

On motion of br. Wills, the report was laid on the table.

Dr. Thomson presented also the following report from the same Committee.

2. The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred so much of the report of the Committee on Means of Grace as relates to the second Question of the Series submitted by br. Heiss, of New Jersey, and the resolution of br. Wills, report that, according to the Discipline, a person holding a Certificate of Membership is not amenable to any of our Churches; and, to obviate any difficulty which might arise from this state of things, and to guard the integrity of the Church, we recommend the following amendments to the Discipline, viz:

Add to the 10th Sec. of Discipline, page 63, the words "so long as any person shall hold such Certificate, his amenability shall be to the Society or Church from which he obtained it; and, if circumstances render it necessary, to the Society or Church nearest his place of residence."

Add to 4th Sec., on page 36, of Discipline, after the word "denomination," the words "or who hold Certificates of Membership in any of our own Churches."

R. B. THOMSON,
B. S. BIBB,
GEORGE VICKERS.

This report was also laid on the table, on motion of br. Wills.

Br. Shaver, Chairman of the College Committee, being indisposed, sent in a request to be relieved from the duties of said Committee. The request was granted.

Dr. Armstrong was also, on motion, excused from further service on the same Committee.

Br. Wills, Chairman of Committee on Journals, presented the following report:

The Committee on Journals ask to submit their report as follows:

Out of thirty odd Annual Conference Districts, your Committee have had *only five* Journals before them, namely: Those from Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. These we have examined, and are not aware of having detected any illegal enactments therein.

Here our report would close were it not for the Constitutional provision which requires each Annual Conference to keep a Journal of its proceedings and send a copy to the General Conference. But in behalf of the Constitution and in view of our responsibilities, we feel it our duty to ask from this General Conference an expression of its disapprobation towards those Annual Conferences who have either refused or neglected to comply with this plain letter of the law. Respectfully submitted,

WILL. H. WILLS, Ch'n,	JOHN B. THOMAS,
JOHN F. SPEIGHT,	DAN'L ZOLLIKOFFER,
JOHN WEBB,	GEO. CLANCY,
HIRAM YARBROUGH,	WM. J. HOLCOMBE.

a paper to Conference, with the report that said paper belongs properly to the Judiciary Committee. Conference returned said paper to the Executive Committee.

Dr. Laishley presented a Resolution relating to delegates from Missions, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Laishley.

TUESDAY MORNING, May 11, 9 o'clock.

Conference met. Usual religious services by br. White.

Br. Zollickoffer asked and obtained leave to have his name recorded *Nay*, on the Report of the Committee on Petitions and Memorials, in reference to the Charleston Church.

Dr. Laishley, Chairman of the Committee on Means of Grace, presented the following report:

I. 1. Your Committee having had under consideration the paper offered by br. Pierpoint, contemplating the publishing of a Catechism for Children, beg to report the adoption of so much of the resolution as to appoint a Committee to draw up a Catechism for our Church, and to report to the next Maryland and Virginia Conferences; and, if the said Conferences approve, then the Book Committee be requested to publish said Catechism.

2. We report adversely to having the Catechism bound either in the Hymn-Book or Discipline.

II. We report further upon the second paper offered by same brother, contemplating an amendment of Sec. 7, page 62, of Discipline, by inserting "to urge upon the members who are parents and guardians, the importance of furnishing their children with the Catechism," &c., that it is inexpedient to insert such an amendment before we have a Catechism.

P. T. LAISHLEY,
W. H. WILLS,
GIBSON HENDRICKS,
J. G. WHITFIELD.

On a motion of br. Wills, the report was laid on the table.

Dr. Thomson, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, made the following report:

1. The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of br. Laishley, "That this Conference so interprets the 1st Sec. of Art. vii, of the Constitution, as to recognize the authority for Missions, as well as Circuits and Stations, to be represented by lay delegation in the Annual Conferences to which said Missions severally belong," report the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That the several Annual Conferences may provide for the proper representation of Missions within their bounds, according to the authority given them, "to make such special rules and regulations as the peculiarities of the District may require." See Const. Art. vii, Sec. iv, part 1st.

R. B. THOMSON,
B. S. BIBB,
GEORGE VICKERS,

Resolved, That the Annual Conferences be required to bring the subject of sending up their Journals to the General Conference before their Annual Conferences, at the time of electing their representatives, and the necessity of attending to this duty as clearly expressed in the Constitution of the Methodist Protestant Church.

The same brother introduced a resolution relating to the Electoral Colleges, &c., which, upon his motion, was laid on the table.

The same br. presented a resolution concerning Quarterly Conferences, which was, on his motion, referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Dr. Duggan offered a resolution relating to Baptism, which was, on motion of br. White, indefinitely postponed:

Resolved, That in the Discipline, page 104, where it alludes to the duty of the Ministry in Baptism, the words "sprinkle, or pour water upon," be stricken out and the word "baptism" be inserted.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, the report of Dr. Dorsey, Chairman of the Theological Committee of last General Conference, was taken up.

After some discussion and explanation, it was, on motion, referred to the Literary Committee.

Br. Whitfield, Chairman of College Committee, made a report relative to Madison College.

Whereas Madison College was placed by its Trustees under an advisory relation to the General Conference, therefore,

Resolved, That this Conference is willing to continue the relation, unless the Board of Trustees think proper to change it.

J. G. WHITFIELD,
H. B. WOODHOUSE,
F. H. PIERPOINT.

On motion of Dr. Laishley, the report was recommitted.
Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Collier.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, May 12.

Conference met at the usual hour. Religious services by br. Stimson.

Br. Reeves, Chairman of Committee on Statistics, made the following report, which was adopted:

In consequence of a failure of the greater number of the annual Conferences to send up their Journals and statistical accounts of their fields of labor, the Committee deem it inexpedient to make out any report for publication, as it must be very incomplete and unsatisfactory.

W. REEVES,
S. CLAWSON,
JAS. P. SPEIGHT.

Br. Whitfield, Chairman of College Committee, made the following report:

The Committee to whom was referred the communication from the Board of Trustees of Madison College, beg leave respectfully to report:

Resolved, That the Annual Conferences be required to bring the subject of sending up their Journals to the General Conference, before their Annual Conference at the time of electing their delegates; and the necessity of attending to this duty as clearly expressed in the Constitution of the Methodist Protestant Church.

The report was laid on the table, on motion of br. Wills.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. Laishley :

Resolved, That the caption preceding the invitation to the Lord's Supper, be not considered imperative in the distinction it seems to recognize, and that this resolution be inserted in a foot-note on the same page of the Book of Discipline.

The resolution prevailed.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, the report of the Committee on Means of Grace, relating to a Catechism, was taken up.

The question before Conference was non-concurrence in the report.

The report was, on motion, laid on the table.

Br. Dorsey offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That Dr. Francis Waters, Dr. E. Y. Reese, Dr. E. G. Waters, Rev. Josiah Varden, Geo. Vickers, Esq., and F. H. Pierpoint, Esq., be appointed a Committee to prepare and publish a Catechism for the use of the Methodist Protestant Church, at as early a period as possible.

The report of the Judiciary Committee (No. 1 of this morning) was taken up and adopted.

Dr. Laishley moved that the resolution appended to said report be published in the Discipline in connection with the regulations for Home Missions. Carried.

Report of same Committee (No. 2 of this morning) was taken up, and on call for a division, a motion was made that the first item be adopted.

Br. White moved the indefinite postponement of the matter. The motion prevailed.

The report of the Committee on Journals was taken from the table.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Clawson.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, May 11.

Conference met at the regular hour. Public worship conducted by br. McDaniel.

The subject pending was the report of Committee on Journals. On motion of Dr. Laishley, it was laid on the table, but was taken up directly. During the interim the President announced bro's J. G. Whitfield and F. H. Pierpoint, to fill the vacancies in the College Committee, by the retiring of bro's Shaver and Armstrong.

On motion of br. Dorsey, the report was adopted.

The following resolution was attached to the report, which, on motion of br. Wills, was adopted.

continuance in the Methodist Protestant Church; or, to quote their own language,—“If this General Conference should not see good to adopt the action necessary to remove our difficulties, we cannot conscientiously consent to a further continuance of our ecclesiastical connection.”

The Memorialists ask—

1. That the word “white” should be stricken from the Constitution, Art. XII, sections 1 and 2, as establishing an invidious distinction not in accordance with the principles of the Gospel of Him who made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell together on all the face of the earth.

2. That the 3d item and annexed proviso, embraced in the 4th section of Art. VII, should be stricken from the Constitution, because it is understood and used to protect ministers and members of the church in the practice of slave-holding and slave-trading.

3. That a clause should be inserted, specifically setting forth that the practices of voluntary slave-holding and of slave-trading will be henceforth a barrier to membership in the Methodist Protestant Church.”

In regard to the first of these propositions, your committee would respectfully intimate—the design of introducing the word “white” into the 1st and 2d sections of Art. XII, was not to violate any principle of the Gospel of Him “who hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,” but simply to protect our white membership in the South from being overruled by a class of persons that have neither the moral, social, nor intellectual qualifications to constitute them rulers in the church of God. As well might it be affirmed that we make “invidious distinctions not in accordance with the principles of the Gospel,” by omitting to declare that female members and minors shall be entitled to vote in all cases; yet we hear of no complaints from any quarter that our female and minor members, who are unquestionably partakers of the “one blood,” are not admitted to this distinction. If the unity of the race involves the obligation to confer the same distinction upon all to which one is entitled; then, to be consistent, we must not only declare our colored members entitled to the right of suffrage in all cases, but receive them as suitable husbands for our daughters, and wives for our sons.

The word “white” does not prohibit annual Conferences from conferring the right of suffrage on colored members, that right being specially guaranteed in Art. VII, section 4, of the Constitution, which expressly declares that “each annual Conference shall have exclusive power to make its own rules and regulations for the admission and government of colored members within its district, and to make for them such terms of suffrage as the Conferences respectively may deem proper.”

The churches in the North and West being at perfect liberty to make their own regulations respecting suffrage, as the peculiarities of their respective districts may require, should be content with the freedom of action guaranteed to them, and not insist that their Southern brethren, of whose situation they are incapable of forming a just estimate, should be governed by notions of right not applicable to the circumstances in the midst of which they are placed by divine Providence.

Your Committee believe that the churches in the South have no such peculiar attachment to the “objectionable” word as would prompt them to contend for its insertion in the Constitution, if that instrument were now for the first time, under consideration, and assurances were given that this concession would not be followed by other and inadmissible demands. They believe that its retention has not deprived a single colored member in the South of the privilege of suffrage, that would not have been equally debarred without such a provision in the Constitution. And we believe that

That as the relation which the General Conference sustains to that institution is purely an advisory one, we have no authority in the case, and are at a loss even to know what course to suggest as best under the circumstances.

That it would have been made gratifying to this body, had a proper statement been made of the finances of the college, and of the disposition of the funds contributed by the church for its support, and that it is but proper such a statement should still be made through our church organs—

That so much of the communication as regards the resignation of the former Faculty of Madison College, and their removal to Lynchburg, we regard as reflecting unjustly upon these gentlemen, inasmuch as we have it from the disclaimer of these gentlemen that their resignation was wholly irrespective of any design to establish an institution at the South—the latter being the *offspring* and not the *cause* of their resignation.

Resolved, That the Trustees of Madison College be respectfully requested to furnish to the Editors of the Methodist Protestant, and the Western Methodist Protestant, a statement of the financial condition of Madison College, at the time of making up the statement, showing—

1. The amount of money received by the Trustees from different annual conferences and individuals, not residents of Union Town and its vicinity.
2. The amount received from residents of Union Town and its vicinity.
3. The amount received on scholarships.
4. The amount received for improvements, and to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees.
5. The amount expended in permanent improvements, such as building, seating, &c.
6. The amount paid to the Faculty, Agents, &c.
7. The amount of the present indebtedness of the College. Designating the amount due for improvements from the amount due for teaching and otherwise.
8. The amount of available assets in the hands of the Trustees, designating between notes, bonds and subscriptions for scholarships uncollected, and library, philosophical apparatus, and any other personal estate belonging to the College.

Resolved, That a copy of this report be signed by the President and Secretary of the Conference and forwarded to the Hon. Andrew Stewart, President of the Board of Trustees of Madison College.

J. G. WHITFIELD,
H. B. WOODHOUSE,
F. H. PIERPOINT.

Dr. Murray, Chairman of Committee on Memorials, made the following report:

The Committee on Memorials and Petitions having had under consideration the memorial of the "Convention of representatives from northern and western Conferences," which assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, beg leave respectfully to report:—

That said memorial, after setting forth certain alleged grievances, which in the opinion of the Memorialists, involve them in their "respective districts in serious embarrassments," proposes several modifications of the Constitution and Discipline, which they say—"we deem indispensable to our success as a church, in the districts which we represent," and which, the Committee regret to say, the Memorialists set forth as indispensable to

they mean that the traffic in slaves, for mercenary purposes, is practiced without rebuke in the entire southern section of the church, they assert what we know to be untrue. In this we do not charge them with intentional misrepresentation. Their affirmation may be founded on what they regard as unquestionable authority, or they may have written the charge without deliberation; but whether they have been deceived by plausible inventions, designed for the particular purpose of operating upon their minds, or whether they have listened too credulously to the exaggerated statements that are industriously circulated throughout their section of the country, for the purpose of exciting the prejudices of their population against the South—they should be admonished of the impropriety of including so large a portion of the church in terms of unqualified condemnation, and reminded that from no class of persons have we heard stronger expressions of detestation for the character of the professional slave-dealer, than from the christian masters of the South. So far as the knowledge of your committee extends, there is not a Christian in the Southern section of the country who does not regard our Saviour's precept, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them," as applicable to the relation of master and slave, as well as all other relations for which provision is made in the Bible.

The Memorialists continue :

"In case your body [should] decline the request above stated, your Memorialists would further respectfully suggest that the General Conference express its concurrence in such an alteration [of] the 8th and 9th Articles of the constitution, as will release the Annual Conferences from all obligation to meet in one General Conference, by recommending the several Annual Conferences to call a special General Conference, to meet in May, 1859, and confer authority thereon to make the requisite alterations in the articles above specified."

This alternative the committee regard as simply a proposition to divide the church. We cannot recommend the General Conference to give the slightest encouragement to such a procedure. We believe a division unnecessary. We believe it would be wrong. We are not apprehensive that disunion would be especially disastrous to the denomination in the South; but we believe that the spectacle of severed churches, besides rendering the public mind too familiar with the idea of political disunion, contributes to the hardening of impenitent sinners, and gives occasion for blaspheming to scoffers. We cannot assume responsibility which our Northern and Western brethren would transfer from themselves to us, and thereby place ourselves in the wrong. Let those who are intent upon dividing the church, accomplish their designs without asking us to divide the responsibility. We will have no participation in the schism.

Apart from these considerations, we feel that a special injury would be inflicted upon those brethren in the North and West who are disposed to adhere to the Methodist Protestant Church as it was in the days of our fathers, should this General Conference consent to the proposed division. We should not only compel them to seek membership in churches for which they have not a preference, or live without the blessings of church fellowship; but, should they cling to the church of their early choice, notwithstanding the rupture, they might find themselves excluded from the very sanctuaries and parsonages which their own means and labors have contributed to erect.

We trust the Memorialists, or those whom they represent, will pause and pray before they resolve on secession or revolutionary action. If the causes which they allege are sufficient to divide the Church, they cannot consent to remain under our federal political government without sin. Will disunion be

our brethren in the North and West, governed by their own instincts and their sense of propriety, have never even thought of electing a colored representative to the General Conference, or to any of the annual Conferences.

The second proposition of the Memorialists, to "strike out the third item and annexed proviso embraced in the 4th section of Art. VII, because it is understood and used to protect ministers and members of the church in the practice of slave-holding and slave-trading," your committee regard as equivalent to asking this General Conference to assume authority to repeal a portion of the word of God. We are expressly commanded in the Scriptures to "be subject to the higher powers," in the legitimate exercise of their authority. The item and proviso complained of is simply a recognition of this command, as its own language will abundantly testify. Thus "neither the General Conference, nor any annual Conference shall assume power to interfere with the Constitutional powers of the civil governments, or with the operations of the civil laws; yet nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize or sanction any thing inconsistent with the morality of the Holy Scriptures."

If our brethren in the North and West are of opinion that this item and proviso have been so constructed as to sanction immorality, they should remember that no instrument, not even the Bible itself, is placed beyond the liability of being perverted. Some men, being "unlearned and unstable," "wrest" the "Scriptures to their own destruction." Shall we, therefore, assume to abolish the Bible? or shall we strike out from the Constitution an article evidently based on the Scriptures, because it is susceptible as are the pages of Holy Writ themselves, of various constructions?

The third proposition, to insert a clause specifically setting forth that "the practice of voluntary slave-holding and slave-trading, shall be henceforth a barrier to membership in the Methodist Protestant Church," your committee deem inadmissible, because it is unnecessary, impolitic, and contrary to the genius of our Ecclesiastical Confederation.

Unnecessary, because Art. XIII, Sec. 1, declares that "all offences, condemned by the word of God as being sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, shall subject ministers, preachers and members to expulsion from the church," and the local tribunals being made the judges of said offences, they are at liberty to proceed according to their own conviction in the fear of God.

Impolitic, because the General Conference, by passing such a rule, would assume authority which it was never designed to exercise, and which, if exercised, would, by implication, sanction every offence not specifically enumerated as constituting a barrier to church membership.

The genius of the Methodist Protestant Church is neither pro-slavery nor abolition. It assumes the word of God to be the only and sufficient rule of faith and conduct leaving the interpretation of its teachings on the relation of master and servant (respecting which, unanimity of opinion cannot be expected in our widely extended confederation) to the churches in the respective districts. The South is not responsible for the action of the North, and the North is not responsible for the action of the South.

Your committee regret that the memorialists have seen fit to allege that "slave trading is practiced without rebuke throughout the entire Southern section of the church." As they have not defined what they include in the phrase "slave trading," we are left to conjecture their meaning. We have testimony respecting the transfer of slaves from one owner to another, under circumstances that not only shield the person engaged in the transfer from the rebukes of our members in the South, but are regarded by them as investing the transaction with the highest attributes of humanity. If the memorialists refer to the transactions of this description, we assent, but if

eral Conference, is the proper tribunal by which all questions of morality, bearing upon the standing of members of the Methodist Protestant Church, should be determined ;" and that this General Conference has no Constitutional authority to grant the prayers of the said petitioners.

Z. KIDWELL,
B. S. BIBB.

Dr. Armstrong moved that the Conference take up the first report. The motion prevailed.

Br. Varden moved that Dr. Murray be permitted to read a certain portion of the report, with a view to Dr. Armstrong's offering an amendment. The motion was withdrawn, and br. Varden substituted the motion that the reports be printed. Br. Pierpoint proposed an amendment, that the memorial be also printed, which was accepted by the original mover. The motion prevailed.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, the subject was made the order of the day for 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Dr. Thomson, Chairman of Judiciary, made the following report, which was adopted :

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of br. Wills, to amend the 7th section of the Discipline on page 46, by adding the words : " Nevertheless, where there is no Superintendent, it may be competent for the officary of the Circuit to call a Quarterly Conference," having duly considered the subject, report that they recommend the adoption of the amendment.

R. B. THOMSON,
B. S. BIBB,
G. VICKERS.

Br. Vickers offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a Committee of three ministers be appointed by the President to report suitable notices of the ministers of our Church who have departed from their earthly toils since the session of our last General Conference.

Dr. Laishley moved that on page 59, item 1, on the duties of the President, in second line, after the word " visit " the following words be inserted : " within the bounds of his own District." The motion was withdrawn.

Br. Pierpoint presented the following resolution :

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Superintendents of Circuits and Stations to call a quarterly Conference at the regular visit of the President to his Circuit or Station. It shall be the duty of the President to attend the quarterly meeting of said Quarterly Conferences, to see what means are adopted to raise the support of the preacher ; to urge upon official members the importance of taking efficient measures in this behalf. Also to urge upon the preachers and official members the importance of taking up the collections ordered by the Annual Conference.

Conference adjourned, with prayer by br. Collier.

for the glory of God? Will it contribute to the salvation of souls? The Methodist Protestant Church has prospered under the constitution. At the time of our organization under that instrument, in 1830, we had but one Annual Conference in the West, one in the Middle free States, and five in the North. At the same time we had six Annual Conferences in the South. Now we have six Annual Conferences in the North, three in the Middle free States, and nine in the West. We have eleven more Annual Conferences in the free States, and ten more in the slave States, than we had in 1830. The Great Head of the Church has blessed all sections of our confederacy. Even now the outpouring of His Spirit is enjoyed in the North, West and South. If God has not forsaken us on account of our union, why should we seek a separation from each other? Will the disunionists thereby carry the consolations of the Gospel to a single slave? Will they convince a single master that he is reckless of his obligations to Almighty God?

We desire the welfare of our Northren and Western brethren. We have rejoiced together in the heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers—the heritage purchased by their toil and sacrifice—their prayers and tears. They once looked with admiration upon the noble edifice which their own Snethen, and Shinn, their Brown, and Springer, and Dorsey and Evans labored to erect. What change has taken place since two of these venerable fathers have ascended to heaven, and others have become aged and infirm, that they should upheave the foundation and leave the beautiful temple a melancholy ruin? Shall this come to pass? We hope not. We pray not. But as we have said before, if our brethren will go from us, they shall go without pretext or provocation. We offer to them no new conditions of membership. We are content to abide by the old. We have considered the subject carefully, and with a solemn sense of our accountability to the Supreme Judge of the earth. We have announced the result of our prayerful deliberations, and in conclusion, calling to remembrance the beautiful language of the Psalmist, “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity,” we are reminded that our Saviour commanded his disciples to “love one another;” that he loved the church and “gave himself for it,” not that it might present the degrading and disgraceful spectacle of rival factions, filled with jealousy and hatred, making war upon and destroying each other, “but that it might be a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing;” profoundly affected by His solemn intercessory prayer for the Disciples, just before the hour of darkness, when His soul became “exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death,” in Gethsemane—“Holy Father, keep through thine own name those thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are,” and, admonished of our duty by all the precepts of holy writ and all the examples of inspired men, we would say to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, “pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.”

JOHN J. MURRAY,
GEORGE VICKERS.

Dr. Kidwell, of the same Committee, made a minority report, as follows:

The undersigned, members of the Committee on Memorials and Petitions, to whom was referred the “Memorial of the Convention of Representatives of Northern and Western Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church, assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio,” having duly considered the same, beg leave to report:

That, according to the Constitution of the Methodist Protestant Church, taking the word of God for the rule, the Local Judiciary, and not the Gen-

As a member of the Committee on Petitions and Memorials, having had the memorial from the Convention of Northwestern Conferences, held in Cincinnati in November, 1857, under prayerful and mature consideration, the undersigned would beg leave, respectfully and in the fear of God, to report as follows:

The memorialists set forth that they are in difficulty; that their cause has been impeded in many portions of their work; that they have sustained great losses in the ministry and membership; that they are threatened with extensive disruption and falling off from their ranks; and then present the following items of the Constitution to your respectful consideration, as being necessary to be removed to insure their future harmony and success:

They require that the word "white" be stricken from the Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 1 and 2, as establishing an invidious distinction not in accordance with the principles of the Gospel of Him who made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth."

It is not the purpose of the undersigned to inquire into the causes that led to the insertion of this word in the Constitution, but to represent that the existence of such distinction in the constitution of a christian church does furnish just ground for complaint:

1. Because there is no such distinction found in the organic laws of any other christian denomination in all our land or in all the world, so far as the undersigned is informed.

2. Because it conflicts with Sec. 2, Art. X, of the Constitution, which reads, "no rules shall be passed, which will infringe the right of suffrage, eligibility to office," &c.

3. Because said word only restricts church suffrage and eligibility to *white lay male members*, while it extends both to ministers and preachers of all colors—Art. 12, Sec. 1 and 2—thus making a distinction among the ministers and laymen of color themselves.

3. The Constitution, with said distinction, is, and must for ever be, inoperative among the nations of the earth who are not white. And thus we are necessarily restricted in our missionary work and in organizing churches to nations only who are white, while the commission of our blessed Lord and Redeemer is, "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel to every creature." It is the duty of the church to bring the nations to the obedience of the faith.

The memorialists further require that "the third item and annexed proviso embraced in the fourth section of Article VII be stricken from the Constitution, because it is understood and used to protect ministers and members of the church in the practice of slave-holding and slave-trading."

Now, while the undersigned is of opinion that it is the bounden duty of christian citizens to "be subject to the higher powers, and submissive to the civil laws, as well in their ecclesiastical as in their individual capacity, there is in the opinion of the undersigned too much reason to believe that the insertion of the proviso referred to, in the connection in which it appears, was intended to prevent the General and Annual Conferences from interference with the evil complained of. In any other view of the subject, the proviso in question would be unnecessary, because the civil government is both competent and disposed to protect itself against any infraction of its laws by ecclesiastical legislation.

The memorialists further require the insertion of a clause making voluntary slave-holding and slave-trading a barrier to membership in the Methodist Protestant Church. But as this subject has been so long and so fully discussed before the country and the church that the minds of all have become familiar therewith, the undersigned deems it unnecessary to say any

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, May 12.

Conference met. Services by Dr. Duggan.

The President announced the following brethren as the Committee on Obituaries: Dr. Thomson, Dr. P. T. Laishley and br. Wills.

The report before Conference at its adjournment was on motion laid on the table, when a resolution was offered by br. Button concerning the ratio of representation, and was referred to the committee on that subject.

Dr. Murray, Chairman of Literary Committee, made the following report in reference to a History of the Church:

The Literary Committee, having had under consideration "the expediency of having prepared, at as early a day as practicable, a more complete history of the Methodist Protestant Church," beg leave to report:

That they have been gratified to learn that Rev. Dennis B. Dorsey, M. D., is engaged in the preparation of a history of the Methodist Protestant Church. Br. Dorsey has been identified with our Church from the beginning, and was one of the first to suffer in the cause of lay representation. His knowledge (derived from personal participation in the early struggles and subsequent triumphs) of our ecclesiastical organization affords him rare facilities for the execution of his task, which, together with his literary ability, will, doubtless, enable him to contribute a valuable addition to the literature of the Church. Respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. MURRAY,
JOHN G. WHITFIELD,
CHAS. W. BUTTON.

The same brother, of same committee, presented the following report on a plan of study. The plan was adopted.

The Literary Committee, having had under consideration the report signed by Rev. Dennis B. Dorsey, M. D., Chairman of the Committee appointed by the last General Conference to report a course of study for the consideration of this body, beg leave to report:

That without expressing an opinion in reference to the report accompanying the proposed course of studies, they return the plan itself with certain amendments for the action of Conference. Respectfully submitted.

JNO. J. MURRAY,
JOHN G. WHITFIELD,
CHAS. W. BUTTON.

(See Appendix No. 3.)

On motion of br. Pierpoint, his resolution, pending at the adjournment this morning, was taken from the table.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Pierpoint.

THURSDAY MORNING, May 13.

Conference met at the regular hour. Opening services conducted by br. Collier.

Br. Collier, of Committee on Memorials, made a minority report on the Western memorial, as follows:

4. The Committee shall, without excluding all particular metre hymns, substitute for some of them such as are better adapted to congregational singing.

5. Increase the number of hymns for family worship and funerals.

6. The traveling expenses of the Committee on revisal shall be paid by the Directory of the Book Concern in Baltimore, for which said Directory shall be entitled to the copyright of said Hymn Book.

7. The first meeting of the Committee shall be called by the Chairman. Subsequent meetings to be determined by a majority of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. MURRAY,
JOHN G. WHITFIELD,
CHAS. W. BUTTON.

The blanks were filled up by inserting the names of Rev. Josiah Varden, Rev. J. J. Murray, brs. Luther Martin and Dr. E. G. Waters, and the Editor of the "Methodist Protestant."

Br. Varden, Chairman of Committee on Missions, made the following report:

The Committee on Home and Foreign Missions beg leave to report that we recommend the continuance of the Board of Missions as heretofore organized, and regretting the inefficient support given the Board in its efforts to extend the influence of our church, we urge upon our fellowship a more prompt and liberal support of the missionary cause.

The Board of Missions having neglected to send an account of their receipts and disbursements, we are unable to make any report on their financial condition, and hereby request the Board to embrace in their future reports a statement of all moneys received, and the manner in which the same has been applied.

On the subject of Oregon Mission we beg leave to report that, feeling a sincere desire to promote the prosperity of this interesting field of toil, we urge its claims upon the Board of Missions and the Church generally.

Having duly examined the paper presented by Rev. John Sexsmith, setting forth the condition and claims of the Des Moines Mission, we take pleasure in recommending this portion of our work to the fostering care of the Board of Missions, and to the private patronage of our wealthy and benevolent members throughout the fellowship of the Methodist Protestant Church.

JOSIAH VARDEN,
J. F. SPEIGHT,
CHAS. A. McDANIEL.

Br. Collier presented the report of the Treasurer of Board of Missions. (See Appendix No. 2.) The report of Committee was re-committed and the report of Treasurer referred to the Committee.

Br. Thomas presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Conference take the vote on the three reports from the Committee on Memorials and other papers connected with them, without debate.

Br. Zollickoffer moved that the resolution be laid on the table. The motion prevailed.

The same brother moved that the second report of the Committee on Memorials be taken up.

thing further upon this item than that a very large proportion of the Methodist Protestant community feel their connection with what they deem to be a very great evil a serious impediment in the way of their future prosperity.

The memorialists do not ask the General Conference to make the above specified alterations, believing, as they state, that this General Conference does not possess requisite power to do so; but they simply suggest that your body refer the matter to the Annual Conferences, two-thirds of whom can empower a future General Conference to make said alterations. But in case this request is declined by this Conference, the undersigned recommends that this General Conference refer to the Annual Conferences the consideration of the propriety of so changing the 8th and 9th articles of the Constitution, so as to release such Annual Conferences as may desire it from all obligation to meet in the now constituted General Conference. This is recommended for the following, among other reasons:

1. The peace, harmony and future success of the North-Western Conferences would be, in the judgment of your memorialists and the undersigned, greatly facilitated by a release from official connection with this General Conference, while no injury can reasonably result to the Conferences which would continue to constitute this General Conference.

2. Because two-thirds of the Annual Conferences have power, according to sec. 1st of Art. 17 of the Constitution, to empower the next General Conference to make the specified alterations, and sec. 1st of Art. 16 authorizes two-thirds of the Annual Conferences to call a special session of the General Conference, and they are competent to call a meeting of said body in May, 1859, as suggested in the memorial.

3. This General Conference has not only all the requisite power to refer the matter to the consideration of the Annual Conferences, but in so doing would show a disposition to do all in their power to cherish the kind feelings which yet exist between the two sections of our association.

4. A severance from this General Conference is not a severance from the Methodist Protestant Church; for this General Conference is not the Methodist Protestant Church, it is only an institution of the Church, and if two-thirds of the Annual Conferences shall so determine, they can as legally and consistently provide for two General Conferences as for two Church Book Concerns.

In conclusion, your Committee would ask permission to inquire of your body whether they would regard it as a sin against God, or a violation of any Gospel precept, to grant the recommendation to refer this matter to the consideration of the Annual Conferences. If this Conference would not so regard it as a sin, why not grant it, in the name of our common Lord and Saviour?

Yours respectfully,

W. COLLIER.

On motion of br. Zollickoffer, the report was laid on the table.

Dr. Murray, Chairman of Literary Committee, made a report on revision of Hymn Book.

The Literary Committee beg leave to report the following plan for the revision of the Hymn Book:

1. Appoint — ministers and — laymen a committee of revision. Said committee to be appointed by the President, or by nomination, as the Conference may direct.

2. The Committee on revisal shall not increase the number of pages in the Hymn Book.

3. The Committee shall determine whether the present arrangement of subjects in the Hymn Book shall be continued, or if changed, what change is desirable.

belonging to the Pittsburgh District, pursuing State line between Pennsylvania and Virginia, from the top of the Alleghany mountains, joining the Maryland District, pursuing said line to the southern line of Brook county, Va., which county, together with Hancock county, is included in Pittsburgh District; thence bounded by the Ohio river on the West, and embracing all the territory in Western Virginia claimed and held previously to the division by the Pittsburgh Conference, the southern line of which shall include the counties of Tazewell, Giles and Craig; thence in a straight line northward to the place of beginning.

In relation to the Huntsville District, the Committee recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas the Huntsville District of the M. P. Church has ceased to operate, and is at this time in a state of disorganization; therefore

Resolved, That said Huntsville District be dissolved, and that the counties included in said District in Tennessee and Alabama, north of the Tennessee river, and the following counties south of said river, to wit: Franklin, Lawrence, Morgan, Marshall and De Kalb, be attached to the Tennessee District, and the remaining portion of said District be attached to the District of Alabama.

SAM'L E. NORTON, *Chairman*.

Br. Button, of the *Ratio* Committee, made a report, which was on motion recommitted.

On motion, the second report of Committee on Cincinnati Memorial was taken up and after discussion adopted.

Br. Varden presented the following document, and moved its adoption:

Resolved, That this General Conference hereby recommend to the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church the call of a Convention as provided for in the Constitution of said Church, Art. XVII, on the following specified conditions:

1. That the several Annual Conferences represented in the Cincinnati Convention, and petitioners to this body, shall severally at the first session of their respective Conferences, after the rise of this body, sanction said call, immediate notice of which shall be given in the Western Methodist Protestant and Methodist Protestant of Baltimore.

2. That the said Annual Conferences making this call shall, with the resolution of call, solemnly pledge themselves to legislate on no subject whatsoever, except the four points specified as follows:

(1.) To make no change in that portion of the Constitution relating to suffrage except the reference of the whole question of suffrage to the Annual Conferences, so that each Annual Conference shall be left free to define its own terms of suffrage.*

(2.) The explicit declaration by the said General Convention that the General Conference shall never hereafter legislate or express an opinion on questions of morality affecting membership; leaving all offences to be determined by the local judiciaries, according to the Word of God.

(3.) Providing for a Book Concern to publish only our Hymn Book, Discipline and General Conference proceedings—periodicals to be published by Annual Conferences separately, or by conventional agreement.

3. That the Conferences making the call solemnly agree to abide by the decision of said General Convention, within the said prescribed limits.

* The word "membership" was by an oversight inserted in this place instead of the word "suffrage." It is corrected as above by direction of Rev. Josiah Varden.—*Ed. Meth. Prot.*

Dr. Murray called for the yeas and nays.

Br. Zollickoffer, by consent of Conference, withdrew his motion, and moved that the first report be laid on the table.

Dr. Murray called for the yeas and nays. The vote was as follows:

Yeas—Ministerial: S. E. Norton, M. Stimson, Samuel Hughes, P. T. Laishley, Chas. A. McDaniel, W. H. Wills, John F. Speight, R. B. Thomson, J. G. Whitfield, Daniel Zollickoffer, J. Varden, G. R. Barr, E. Lott—13.

Nays—Min.: B. F. Duggan, D. B. Dorsey, Jr., W. C. Lipscomb, J. J. Murray, Samuel Clawson—5.

Yeas—Lay: B. S. Bibb, J. H. Smith, G. Hendricks, Z. Kidwell, J. Webb, H. Yarborough, H. B. Woodhouse, C. W. Button, J. B. Mathews, J. B. Thomas, J. P. Speight, Luther Martin, W. Harding—13.

Nays—Lay: Jas. L. Armstrong, Geo. Vickers, F. H. Pierpoint—3.

The Western brethren were excused from voting.

Br. Zollickoffer moved to adopt the second report.

Pending the discussion, Conference adjourned. Prayer by Br. Hughes.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, May 13.

Conference opened with religious services conducted by br. J. Paris.

The second report, pending at the time of adjournment, was before Conference. Pending which the Conference adjourned after granting leave of absence to brs. Clancy, Reeves, Collier and White.

Br. White offered the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously by a rising vote:

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Conference be tendered to the citizens of the city of Lynchburg for their generous hospitality in entertaining the members and visitors of this Conference during our stay among them, and also to the pastors and churches who with Christian liberality have invited us to occupy their pulpits in their respective churches.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Reeves.

FRIDAY MORNING, May 14, 9 o'clock.

Conference met. Opening services conducted by br. John F. Speight.

After correction of the Minutes, br. Norton, Chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, made the following report, which was on motion adopted:

The Committee on Boundaries, to whom was referred the paper relative to the Western Virginia District, recommend that the bounds of said District include the following territory: All that portion of territory formerly

FORM OF RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP.

The following form of admission shall be observed :

After the invitation has been given, and while the candidate is approaching the altar, the following verses shall be sung :

People of the living God,
I have sought the world around,
Paths of sin and sorrow trod,
Peace and comfort nowhere found.

Now to you my spirit turns,
Turns a fugitive unblest ;
Brethren, where your altar burns,
O receive me into rest.

The minister shall then address the candidate as follows :

Beloved brother, you have presented yourself here for admission into the church of Christ, and it becomes me faithfully to admonish you of the sacred and solemn responsibilities you thus assume. By this act you declare your separation from the world, and your entire consecration, soul and body, with all you have and are, to the service of the one true and living God. You publicly profess yourself to be a disciple of the meek and lowly Saviour, and as your conduct may or may not accord with this profession will it promote or injure the cause of the Redeemer on the earth ; for "a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." I charge you, therefore, before God, who will judge the quick and dead, and in the presence of men and angels, that you witness a good confession, striving, in humble dependence upon divine grace, to walk worthy of the great vocation wherewith you are called, to maintain a conversation and deportment such as become the Gospel, and to keep yourself unspotted from the world.

Be frequent in private prayer and the reading of the word of God, and faithful in attendance upon all the social and public services of the church, that thereby you may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour ; whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

Walk in wisdom towards them that are without, avoiding the very appearance of evil, that you prove to none a stone of stumbling or a rock of offence ; but adorning in all things the doctrines of God, your Saviour, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue ; and to virtue, knowledge ; and to knowledge, temperance ; and to temperance, patience ; and to patience, godliness ; and to godliness, brotherly kindness ; and to brotherly kindness, charity : for if these things be in you and abound, they make you that you shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you do these things you shall never fall, for so an entrance shall be administered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And now we commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to keep you from falling and to give you an inheritance with them that are sanctified, praying the Great Head of the Church to bestow upon you his grace and spirit, to keep you by his power, through faith, unto eternal salvation.

4. On the above stipulated terms a Convention is recommended. But if, between the present time and the meeting of the General Conference in 1862, a majority of the Annual Conferences represented in the Cincinnati Convention should refuse to pledge themselves as above specified, or by any Conference or conventional act of legislation shall attempt to change the provisions of the Constitution or Discipline of the Methodist Protestant Church, then this General Conference recommend that the Annual Conferences immediately preceding the General Conference of 1862 recede from the arrangement and refuse to call a Convention.

JOSIAH VARDEN,
WM. C. LIPSCOMB,
R. B. THOMSON,
J. G. WHITFIELD.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, the consideration of the paper was made the order of the day at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Br. Pierpoint's resolution, offered on Wednesday morning, was called up and negatived.

Br. Button, of Committee on Ratio of Representation, made a revised report.

The Committee to whom were referred the resolutions in favor of changing the present ratio of representation in the General Conference, beg leave to report that they have had the matter under careful consideration, and recommend that the basis of representation shall be one minister and one layman for every fourteen hundred members, provided there be no secession of those Conferences who have indicated dissatisfaction with our Constitution and book of Discipline; but in the event of the contingency above intimated, the Committee recommend that the ratio of representation shall be one minister and one layman for every twelve hundred members, and the Annual Conferences next preceding the sitting of the General Conference shall be governed accordingly.

E. LOTT,
CHAS. W. BUTTON,
LUTHER MARTIN.

An effort was made to postpone, which was ineffectual. Amendments were proposed, the final action on which resulted in substituting 1000 instead of 1200, when the report was adopted.

On motion of br. Vickers, the selection of a place for holding the next General Conference was made the order of the day at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

The motion on adopting the report of Committee on Ratio of Representation was reconsidered. Pending the discussion, Conference adjourned. Prayer by br. Crocker.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, May 14.

Conference was opened with religious services conducted by Dr. Laishley.

The regular business was suspended in order to receive a proposed formula for receiving members into church fellowship, presented by br. Martin. Dr. Laishley moved that the formula should be adopted and inserted in the Discipline. It is as follows:

Br. Whitfield moved the adoption of the report. Br. Murray called for the previous question, but withdrew his amendment.

Br. Whitfield's motion was put. The Report was adopted.

Conference adjourned *sine die*. Prayer by President.

WM. C. LIPSCOMB, *President*

J. J. WHITE,
D. B. DORSEY, JR. } *Secretaries.*

BENEDICTION.

The peace of God, which passeth understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with you always. Amen.

The motion was passed to adopt the paper without the preamble.

The order of the day was called for by Dr. Murray, who also moved that br. Varden's paper of pacification be laid on the table. The motion was lost.

The paper was then taken up and considered item by item. Brs. W. H. Wills and M. Stimson requested that their names should be entered on the minutes as voting against each item. Brs. Laishley and Dorsey requested that their names be entered in opposition to the provision for changing the Restrictive Rule. Br. Webb opposed to the three last.

The vote was then taken on the whole paper, and it was adopted. The following brethren recorded their votes in the negative: M. Stimson, C. A. McDaniel, J. P. Speight.

The Conference went into the vote for the place of holding the next General Conference. Georgetown, D. C., was selected.

Br. Martin asked and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

Dr. Thomson returned a paper from the Judiciary Committee, which was received, and the Committee was discharged from further duty.

The following brethren asked and obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the session: Dr. Murray, J. B. Mathews, George Vickers.

On motion of Dr. Murray, the Book Agent and the Superintendents of East and West Baltimore Station were made a Committee to revise the Discipline in accordance with the changes ordered by this Conference.

A resolution introduced by br. Vickers complimentary to the President and Secretaries was passed by a rising vote.

Dr. Murray moved that the Book Directory of Baltimore be directed to compensate the Secretaries for their labors, in recording the Minutes and preparing them for publication, and that the Directory have the copyright as remuneration.

Br. Varden moved that the treasurer's report of the Board of Missions be referred to brs. Rhinehart, Bennett and F. Collier, to make such settlement as they shall think most advantageous to the Home Missionary cause, and that they make arrangement to continue Rev. John Sexsmith on Des Moines Mission. The resolution was adopted.

The report of Mission Committee was re-received and adopted.

The vote on the report of Committee on Ratio of Representation was reconsidered.

Dr. Murray moved to substitute for the report the arrangement that 1500 be the ratio of representation.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS OF THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

DEAR BRETHREN :—The Board of Missions, in making their report, desire to express their sincere gratitude to the God of Missions that they have been brought through the toils of another four years' term of service, while they cherish the hope that their labor has not been in vain in the Lord. For although they have passed through many reverses and consequent discouragements, yet there is ground for hope that some good has resulted from their efforts to supply the destitute with the Gospel of the grace of God.

The lack of means has rendered it impossible for the Board to carry out their wishes or their plans, or to meet to any considerable extent the calls made upon their funds. This the Board have all along deeply regretted. Indeed, it has been to them a constant source of great mortification that they were placed in a position from which so much was expected and yet so little could be done.

The General Conference, which held its session in Steubenville, Ohio, May, 1854, in their wisdom, deemed it proper to place Desmoine and Chicago missions under the care of the Board. These, added to the mission in Oregon, increased the demand upon the Mission Treasury, and suggested the necessity of renewed efforts to meet such demands.

The Rev. A. Doniphan, of the Virginia Conference, and Rev. J. Fowler, of North Illinois Conference, were duly appointed as agents to take up collections and solicit donations to aid the Board in forwarding the object contemplated. For a while hope was entertained that the funds required to carry out the intentions of the General Conference would be realized; but we were sadly disappointed in the meagre returns for so great an expenditure of time and labor. Nothing in this remark, however, is intended to reflect upon the beloved brethren who acted as agents. They were active and zealous in the good work; and had they met with a corresponding liberality among the churches they visited, ample funds would, doubtless, have been placed at the disposal of the Board.

Finding the agencies employed did not succeed as was expected, the Board, after mature consideration, resorted to another plan to secure the object above defined. The Rev. John Scott, Corresponding Secretary of the Board, was directed to add to his other duties that of visiting as far as practicable the Annual Conferences, to present the claims of missions as connected with our church, and thus, through the members of the respective Conferences, diffuse, by the blessing of God, a general missionary fervor. This plan, though perhaps the most effective in the end, it was deemed for sufficient reasons best to discontinue. Since that, the Board has sought to replenish the treasury by agencies incurring the less expense, so that they might, if possible, meet all their obligations to the missionaries in their employ. The Board flatter themselves that they have done the best they could in view of the circumstances and condition of the respective claimants, and made the most judicious appropriation of their limited means.

The following contains a brief account of the missions having received more or less assistance from the Board :

An application having been made for missionary labor in a portion of Kentucky, the Board accordingly appointed Rev. J. S. H. Corwine, and appropriated one hundred dollars, but that sum not being deemed sufficient to justify the undertaking, the project was relinquished.

The accompanying report of the Treasurer, br. W. J. Troth, will exhibit the receipts and expenditures for the past four years:

Thus you have presented to you, dear brethren, the doings of the Board in as brief an account as the nature of the subjects embraced would admit. Some of the details will no doubt be painful to you; but not more so than they have been to the Board. It is hoped, however, that the General Conference at its present session will adopt more vigorous measures for the promotion of this department of Christian enterprise.

JOHN COWL, Pres't Board of Missions.

JAMES ROBISON, Rec. Sec'y.

No. II.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1854.	To balance on hand last report, May, 1854.....		\$1,520 76
Aug. 19.	From sundry subscribers.....	\$1 75	
Sept. 13.	" " subscriptions, per Rev. A. H. Bassett.....	16 00	
" 20.	" collections made on the Pittsburgh District, per Rev. J. L. Simpson.....	37 35	
" "	" " Missionary collections in the M. P. Church, Alleghany, per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	11 50	
Nov. 2.	" sundry persons, per C. Craig.....	7 50	
			74 10
" 24.	" Virginia Annual Conf. Missionary Society, per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	50 00	
" "	" Norfolk, per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	48 19	
" "	" North Carolina Conference, per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	60 30	
" "	" Joseph Libby, per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	5 00	
			163 49
" 29.	" Mother Shinn, Pittsburgh.....	2 00	
Dec. 19.	" Liberty Missionary S. S. Society, Ill., per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	40 00	
" 23.	" Genesee Annual Conf., per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	20 00	
1855.			
Feb. 20.	" Miami ct., Ohio Dist., per A. H. Bassett...	15 50	
" "	" Rev. J. S. Vansant, Ohio Dist.....	5 00	
Mar. 26.	" New York and Vermont Annual Conf., per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	26 00	
April 9.	" A Friend, per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	2 00	
" 16.	" sundry subscriptions, per Rev. E. Y. Reese.....	94 50	
			205 00
April 16.	" Ohio ct., Pittsburgh Dist., per Rev. Jno. Scott.....	7 50	
June 18.	" sundry subscriptions, per Rev. Jno. Scott...	28 00	
" 25.	" Sharpsburg, Pitts. Dist., per Rev. John Scott.....	4 17	
Aug. 21.	" sundry subscriptions, " " " ".....	74 07	
" 22.	" Rev. A. Doniphan, Agent.....	50 00	
" "	" Rev. Jacob Fowler, Agent.....	100 00	
			* 263 74
Sept. 17.	" Alleghany S. School, per W. Miller.....	11 22	
" 18.	" Pittsburgh Ann. Conf., per Rev. J. Scott....	41 77	

OREGON MISSION.

With the history of this mission the church is generally familiar. It is therefore needless to say more than that, through means afforded by the Board in sending a missionary to that territory, a permanent Methodist Protestant organization has been effected, meeting houses erected, a respectable Annual Conference established, and the ministry and membership steadily growing in numbers and influence.

Rev. D. Bagley having faithfully fulfilled his engagements with the Board, is not now in their employ. It would have been gratifying to the Board could they have continued the usual appropriations to the Oregon mission, but the means were not at hand nor yet in prospect.

The correspondence between the Board and the Oregon mission was throughout of the most agreeable character. Long may the Methodist Protestant church in Oregon live and prosper in all that is good and useful.

CHICAGO MISSION.

Without any unnecessary delay, after the adjournment of the General Conference of 1854, in compliance with a request from the brethren of Chicago, the Board appointed two of their members to visit that place to ascertain the condition and prospects of the proposed mission. The Board being satisfied from the report of the brethren visiting the place that a useful and prosperous Methodist Protestant church might be built up in that growing city, appointed Rev. R. F. Shinn as superintendent of the mission. Subsequently br. Shinn resigned his connection with the mission, and Rev. George Redding, of Illinois Conference, was appointed in his place. Br. Redding continued but one year his connection with the mission, when, on account of failing health, he resigned. Rev. R. H. Sutton was next appointed to take charge of the mission. The treasury being now exhausted, the Board was reluctantly compelled to withdraw further support from said mission until funds should be furnished. Br. Sutton's time of service in the mission having expired, the official body, with the concurrence of the Board, were left to make their own arrangements for ministerial supplies. The Board has had no recent information from Chicago, and therefore are not prepared to make any statement respecting the present condition of the mission.

DES MOINE MISSION.

Rev. John Sexsmith, having resided and labored within the bounds of this mission prior to the General Conference, 1854, was, at the request of the mission, appointed as superintendent. Rev. C. S. Callahan was subsequently appointed as assistant. This mission was regarded by the Board as an interesting and promising field of labor. It was therefore with extreme regret they were compelled to withdraw their support after the first year. But what could be done with an empty treasury and the stronger claims of the Oregon mission? The Board was reduced to the necessity, about this time, of effecting a loan of several hundred dollars to relieve the most pressing wants of our missionary there, believing it to be more in accordance with the dictates of justice and humanity to succor those who were far off, battling with dangers and enduring privations and hardships to which those nearer home were strangers.

SWEDISH MISSION.

Upon the recommendation of the Iowa Conference Revs. J. G. Schimdst and J. Haskins were appointed by the Board to the charge of a mission to embrace the Swedes, Danes and Norwegians in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Board made such appropriations as their funds at the time would justify. This mission, according to representations made to the Board, was regarded as prosperous. About fifty had been collected into classes. But the means failed, and in this case also the Board was forced to withdraw support.

A mission among the Germans of Cincinnati was attempted, but failed. No report from the missionary.

Sept. 20. From the Missionary Association of the Liberty Sab. School, Ill., per Rev. W. Collier..	\$71 00	
" the Muskingum Annual Conf., for Life Members and others, per Rev. W. Collier...	106 00	
" the Ohio Annual Conf. for Life Members and others, per Rev. W. Collier.....	29 00	
" the Illinois Annual Conf. for Life Members and others, per Rev. W. Collier.....	88 00	
" Rev. W. Collier for collections.....	41 00	
" Rev. W. Scholey, life member.....	10 00	
" Rev. James Robison, from life subscribers in Pittsburgh	30 00	
	<u>375 00</u>	
		4,258 00
Amount received by me for subscriptions to the Missionary and Sabbath School Journal.....		1,494 15
Total amount received.....		<u>\$5,752 15</u>

CR.

By amount paid Rev. Daniel Bagley, Missionary to Oregon,	\$1,205 00	
" " " Rev. R. F. Shinn for services rendered as Missionary in Chicago.....	150 00	
" " " Rev. C. S. Callihan for services on Des moines Mission, and including \$100 for traveling expenses.....	400 00	
" " " Rev. John Scott for services rendered as Cor. Secretary, Traveling Agent, and conducting the Journal, all of which, for one year.....	700 00	
" " " Rev. John Schmittz, Missionary to the Swedes located in the West, embracing part of Illinois and Iowa	300 00	
" " " Rev. J. D. H. Corwine, appointed to Kentucky Mission.....	25 00	
	<u>2,780 00</u>	
" " " Rev. Jacob Fowler, General Agent.....	218 46	
" " " Rev. W. A. Shubert, Missionary among the Germans of Cincinnati.....	25 00	
✓ " " " Rev. Wm. Collier, for services rendered to the Board as Agent for one year.....	146 00	
" " " For printing the Missionary and Sabbath School Journal.....	1,785 10	
" " " As miscellaneous expenses, embracing a period of four years.....	604 36	
Total amount paid out.....	<u>\$5,684 80</u>	
Amount in hands.....	\$67 35	

From the above exhibit it will be seen that the Missionary and Sabbath School Journal has not met its expenses, but it is to be observed that in settling with the agents of the two Book Concerns, the amounts received for the Journal have been accounted as Missionary money, when most of the money received by the respective book agents, was for the Journal, but not so noticed in settlement.

W. J. TROTH,

Treas'r Board of Missions of M. P. Church.

PITTSBURGH, May 10, 1858.

Oct. 3.	From	Rev. Jacob Fowler, Agent.....	\$301 29	
" "	"	Muskingum An'l Conf., per Rev. W. Collier	31 00	
" "	"	Muskingum Dist., " " "	17 53	
" "	"	Cambridge ct., Ohio Dist. " " "	2 50	
" 24.	"	North Carolina Dist., " " "	47 50	
Nov. 28.	"	Missionary Association, Liberty S. School, Morgan Co., per Rev. W. Collier.....	44 25	
Dec. 15.	"	Rev. Jacob Fowler, Agent.....	40 00	
1856.				\$537 06
Jan. 12.	"	" " " " " "	20 00	
Feb. 11.	"	" " " " " "	94 00	
April 3.	"	Pittsburgh Conf.....	1 50	
" 23.	"	Alleghany M. P. Church, annual collection, per Rev. John Cowl.....	11 00	
" 17.	"	Sundry subscriptions, per Rev. A. H. Bassett	51 24	126 50
May 31.	"	Muskingum Conference Missionary Society, per Rev. G. Clancy.....	21 00	
June 16.	"	Sundry persons, per E. Y. Reese.....	82 17	
July 1.	"	Ohio ct., per Rev. J. W. Rutledge.....	5 00	
" 19.	"	Greenville ct., Pittsburgh Dist.....	2 00	
Aug. 5.	"	A committee to obtain a temporary loan.....	200 00	
" 26.	"	Reisville Mission, Annual Conf. collection, per Rev. J. Robison.....	2 00	
Sept. 26.	"	Pittsburgh Annual Conf. collection, per Rev. John Scott	26 00	
" "	"	Pittsburgh Dist., as their portion towards buying plate for missionary certificates	20 00	
" "	"	5th street station annual collection.....	6 19	
" "	"			415 60
" "	"	Sarah F. Fuller, per W. Collier.....	5 00	
" "	"	Ohio ct., Pitts. Dist., per W. Collier.....	338 00	
" "	"	Rev. Jacob Fowler, Agent, collections at the North Ill. Conf.....	51 00	
Oct. 6.	"	Life Members obtained at the Ohio Conf. held at Cincinnati, per Rev. W. Collier	79 00	
" "	"	Life Members and others obtained at the Mus- kingum Conf., per Rev. W. Collier.....	77 62	
" "	"			216 00
Dec. 18.	"	the Missionary Society of the Genesee Conf., per Rev. S. M. Short.....	15 75	
" 25.	"	Attorney Street church, N. Y. city, per Rev. J. Fowler.....	30 00	
" 30.	"	Rev. Joseph Snelling, whose subscription was obtained by Rev. F. Stier, Boston, Mass	5 00	
1857.				
Jan. 23.	"	James Hicks, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio.....	20 00	
" 26.	"	W. Wyman and wife, obtained by Rev. F. Stier, Lowell, Mass.....	10 00	
" "	"	Rev. Daniel Bagley's order on Book Concern, Baltimore	50 00	
" "	"	Rev. Daniel Bagley, order on Book Concern, Springfield, Ohio.....	50 00	
March 16.	"	The Missionary Association of Liberty Sab- bath School, Ill., per Rev. W. Collier..	75 00	
Sept. 20.	"	A bequest made to the Board of Missions, M. P. C., by Samuel Swarts, dec'd, of Abingdon, Ill., per Rev. G. Williams	100 00	
" "	"	Hazlett's sewing society, per Rev. W. Col- lier	5 00	
" "	"			360 75

Adoption, Witness of the Spirit, Growth in Grace, Christian Perfection; Possibility of Final Apostacy; Immortality of the Soul; Resurrection of the Body; General Judgment; Rewards and Punishments.

[The examination on the above to be strictly Biblical, requiring the candidate to give the statement of the doctrine, and the Scripture proofs.]

SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.

Watson's Institutes, First part,—Fletcher's Appeal.

COMMON ENGLISH STUDIES.

English Grammar, Ancient and Modern Geography.

COMPOSITION.

Written Essay or Sermon.

[Read Wesley's Sermons and Notes; Watts on the Mind; Whitehead's Life of Wesley.]

SECOND YEAR.

THE BIBLE.—SACRAMENTS.

The Sacrament of Baptism—its Nature, Design, Obligation, Subjects, and Mode. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper—its Nature, Design, and Obligation. [Examination same as upon the Bible in the first year.]

SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.

Watson's Institutes, Part second; Shinn's Plan of Salvation; Clarke on the Eucharist.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Constitution and Discipline of the M. P. Church; Paris's Manual.

[Read "Defence of the Truth," by McCaine.]

COMPOSITION.

Essay or Sermon.

[Read Watson's Apology; King and Stillingfleet on Apostolical Succession; and Snethen on Lay Representation.]

THIRD YEAR.

THE BIBLE.—HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY.

Candidates to be prepared upon the leading events recorded in the Old and New Testaments; Reference Books—Horne's Introduction.

SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.

Watson's Institutes—Third Part.

HISTORY, ETC.

Outlines of History; Rhetoric; Logic; Moral Science. Text Books to be chosen by the respective annual Conferences.

COMPOSITION.

Essay or Sermon.

[Read Rollin's Ancient History, Smith's Patriarchal Age, History of the Methodist Protestant Church, S. K. Jennings's Exposition, Prideaux' Connexions.]

COURSE OF STUDY

FOR PROBATIONERS AND TRAVELING DEACONS IN THE M. P. CHURCH.

To the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church.

DEAR BRETHREN :—The Chairman of a committee, appointed by the last General Conference to prepare a Course of Studies for candidates for the ministry in the Methodist Protestant Church, not having opportunity to consult other members of the committee, begs leave to submit the following report :

There never has been a time in this country in which so much learning and talent in the ministry were necessary to the success of the Gospel. The great increase of learned ministers in the various denominations, and the general diffusion of learning and intelligence among the masses of society, alike create and enforce this necessity.

Independently of this, however, there is a manifest impropriety in employing very illiterate men to preach the Gospel. For, in the absence of special Divine inspiration, which no church has any reason to assume at this time, it is impossible, without considerable literary and scientific knowledge, to thoroughly understand the language and the import of the sacred Scriptures, which contain the message of salvation to a lost world. And, therefore, it is impossible without such knowledge, to efficiently proclaim this message, unless men can communicate what they do not know.

It is unjust to uneducated men themselves, to employ and ordain them to do what they have no adequate qualifications for doing: still more unjust to the church, and to the world lying in wickedness; and most unjust to God, whose message of truth and mercy is slighted by being committed to men unqualified to comprehend it, and proclaim it to sinners. The authority for them to preach or exhort, under license, gives them sufficient encouragement to exercise their graces and natural talents, until they have made proper attainments for ordination to the ministerial work.

It is an essential benefit for the church to require considerable literary and scientific attainments in pious candidates for the ministry, because such attainments will prepare them for greater usefulness, and to glorify the Head of the Church in a higher degree.

But a system of ministerial studies, however well digested and adapted, can be useful only in proportion to its rigid enforcement. It is, therefore, desirable that the General Conference require of candidates a thorough examination on the different subjects of study which may be adopted.

The basis of the plan which follows has been borrowed from a sister church, because it is regarded as equally good with any new plan which could have been devised. The modifications and additions, necessary to adapt it to our church, have cost considerable thought and labor, although there may appear to be but little change.

Hoping that it will receive the approval of the General Conference, and be adopted instead of our present defective course of study for ministerial candidates, it is respectfully submitted by

D. B. DORSEY,
Chairman of Committee.

FIRST YEAR.

THE BIBLE.—DOCTRINES.

The Existence of God; the Attributes of God, namely—Spirituality, Eternity, Omnipotence, Ubiquity, Omniscience, Immutability, Wisdom, Truth, Justice, Mercy, Love, Goodness, Holiness; the Trinity in Unity; the Deity of Christ—His Humanity—Union of both; Personality and Deity of the Holy Ghost; Depravity, Atonement, Repentance; Justification by Faith; Regeneration,

DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The following is believed to be a correct list of the members of the General Conference of 1858. It is no part of the *Record*, but is made up from the best facilities that are at hand.—*Ed. Meth. Prot.*

MARYLAND.

MINISTERS.	LAYMEN.
Dr. J. J. Murray,	J. W. Richardson,
Josiah Varden,	Luther Martin,
W. C. Lipscomb,	J. B. Thomas,
Dan'l Zollickoffer.	Geo. Vickers.

VIRGINIA.

R. B. Thomson, D.D.	C. W. Button,
J. G. Whitfield,	Capt. W. Harding,
G. R. Barr.	Gen. H. B. Woodhouse.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.

P. T. Laishley,	C. W. Newlon,
D. R. Helmick,	F. H. Pierpoint,
Sam'l Clawson.	Hon. Z. Kidwell.

PENNSYLVANIA.

J. K. Helmbold.	Wm. Dale.
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PITTSBURG.

Wm. Collier,	J. R. Griffith,
Wm. Reeves.	J. Redman.

NEW YORK AND VERMONT.

R. Hanks.	A. Seaman.
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NEW JERSEY.

T. T. Heiss.	E. C. Pancoast.
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BOSTON.

J. M. Mayall.	George Pierce.
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OHIO.

A. H. Bassett,	J. M. Johnson,
J. M. Flood,	S. Graham,
Joseph White.	E. D. Norris.

NORTH MISSISSIPPI.

A. A. Houston.	Dr. W. R. Montgomery.
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MISSISSIPPI.

Elisha Lott.	N. B. Whitehead.
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NORTH CAROLINA.

J. F. Speight,	Jas. N. Speight,
Alson Gray,	Calvin Johnston,
W. H. Wills.	Dr. M. C. Whitaker.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

H. T. Arnold.	Hiram Yarborough.
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GEORGIA.

C. A. McDaniel.	John Webb.
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TENNESSEE.

B. F. Duggan.	J. L. Armstrong.
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WEST TENNESSEE.

O. Potts.	Zach. Biggs, Jr.
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LOUISIANA.

G. W. Johnson.	S. M. Grigsby.
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ARKANSAS.

M. Stimson.	J. Cottingham.
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ALABAMA.

F. L. B. Shaver,	Hon. B. S. Bibb,
S. E. Norton.	E. H. Cook.

MISSOURI.

Samuel Hughes.	G. Hendricks.
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OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.

Jeremiah Dodson.	M. P. Gilliam.
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ONONDAGA.

I. H. Hogan.	B. G. Swift.
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GENESEE.

O. C. Payne.	B. A. Nichols.
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MUSKINGUM.

G. Ciancy,	I. Cassell,
R. Andrew,	J. Wells,
J. S. Thrap.	J. Fordyce.

INDIANA.

T. Shipp.	Wm. Smith.
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WABASH.

S. W. Widney.	Jas. H. Williams.
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NORTH ILLINOIS.

W. E. Martin.	Wm. Cullen.
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SOUTH ILLINOIS.

R. Wright.	I. Patterson.
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ILLINOIS.

Joel Dalbey.	T. R. Markillie.
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IOWA.

Wm. Patterson.	J. B. Bass.
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TEXAS.

R. A. Sloan.	Samuel Oliver.
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FOURTH YEAR.

REVIEW OF THE WHOLE COURSE.

SYSTEMATIC DIVINITY.

Watson's Institutes, Fourth Part; Butler's Analogy.

COMPOSITION.

Essay or Sermon.

[Read Smith's Hebrew People; Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History; Townley's Illustrations of Biblical Literature; Watson's Sermons; History of the United States.]

The following list of books is recommended to the ministers of the Meth. Prot. Church, as valuable for further reading and reference, after passing through the preceding course; but the General Conference does not hereby endorse all that is advanced by the writers:

Alexander's Evidences of Christianity.	Calmet's Dictionary of the Bible.
Campbell's Lectures on Ec. History.	Alger's Pronouncing Bible.
Dwight's Theology.	Walker's Key to the Pronunciation of
MacKnight on the Epistles.	Greek and Latin Words.
Magee on the Atonement.	Gaston's Collections.
Peck's Christian Perfection.	Cruden's Concordance.
Campbell on Miracles.	Newton on the Prophecies.
Josephus' Works.	Harvey on Conversation.
Hitchcock's Geology.	Milton's Paradise Lost.
Saurin's Sermons.	Young's Night Thoughts.
Clarke's Commentary.	Arthur's Tongue of Fire.
Campbell on the Gospels.	Snethen's Sermons.
Hunter's Sacred Biography.	" Identifier.
Blair's Rhetoric.	Peck's Central Idea of Christianity.
Tytler's General History.	Fletcher's Works.
Edwards on Baptism.	Wesley's "
Clarke's Sermons.	Chalmers' "
Watson's Dictionary.	Dick's "
Sherlock on Divine Providence.	Shinn on the Supreme Being.
Beattie's Essay on Truth.	D'Aubigne's Hist. Reformation.
Bledsoe's Theodicy.	Abbott's Histories.
Footprints of the Creator.	Macaulay's Miscellanies.

It is not designed by prescribing this course to prevent Annual Conferences from prescribing for the candidates under their jurisdiction any course that their judgment may approve.

NOTE. The above is the plan of study as amended by the action of the General Conference.

PUB. OF MIN.

ERRATUM.—On page 16, at the close of the Memorial, read "*By order of the Convention,*" for "*By order of the Committee.*"

NOTE.—By an arrangement with one of the Secretaries, to whom the duty had been assigned, the oversight of the publication of the Journal was intrusted to the editor of the Methodist Protestant. The MSS. from which the Journal was printed are in the hand-writing of the Secretaries, and the originals of all resolutions, reports, &c., where they could be found, were given into the hands of the printer. They have been returned and are duly filed.

E. Y. REESE,
Ed. Meth. Prot.